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The Private Journal of George Whitwell Parsons: The Turbulent Years, 1880–82

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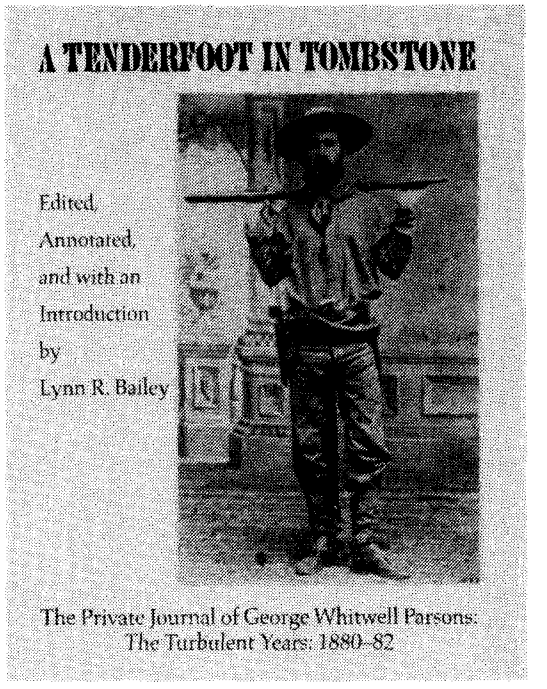
Author of *Bisbee, Queen of the Copper Camps, Old Reliable, The Search for Lopez,* and *We'll All Wear Silk Hats,* etc.



George Whitwell Parsons was an Easterner, trained as a banker, who wanted to carve a niche for himself in hardrock mining. To do so, he picked one of America's most isolated silver camps, Tombstone in Arizona Territory. Although he failed to find his El Dorado in southeastern Arizona, and never left an enduring mark on the region, he presented a priceless account of everyday life in Tombstone during its heyday.

George recorded not only his daily struggles in mining, but the ups-and-downs of the tempestuous community. Once he got used to the town's rough edges, Parsons became a community and county activist. He spearheaded a movement to build a Presbyterian church and bring ministers to Tombstone. As a member of the Citizens Safety Committee, he fought the fraudulent actions of the Tombstone Townsite Company and became an outspoken advocate for a no-nonsense approach to curbing the lawlessness then sweeping southeastern Arizona. His observations regarding crime and the town's response to it, as well as the Earp-cowboy vendetta have been quoted over and over again. In fall of 1881 Parsons joined a group of Tombstoners in a chase across the Sulphur Springs Valley to head off marauding Apaches before they escaped into Mexico. His comments regarding this sojourn are especially pertinent, when one considers that a month later members of this group would shoot it out on a Tombstone street.

George Parsons' journal offers much more than a glimpse into personal and political machinations. He brings forth the town's cosmopolitan atmosphere. It had two daily newspapers, and national theatrical troupes augmented hometown performances in a half dozen theaters. Restaurant food ran the gambit from bland Irish and Welsh fare to French cuisine. Ice cream and oysters were readily procurable, thanks to refrigeration. Besides offering a wealth of information on daily life in Tombstone, George's journal sheds great insight into community leadership with portraits of John Clum, J. V. Vickers, Dr. George Goodfellow, Michael Gray, Philip Morse, William H. Bayless, the Girds, and religious leaders Endicott Peabody and Joseph McIntyre. Added to this, Parsons presents a fascinating picture of emerging commerce, particularly the rigors of small-scale mining in the Tombstone District and in the Huachuca Mountains. Last but not least, George Parsons emerges from his journal as a complex man, with contrasting traits; tenacity being his dominant quality. And thanks to that tenacity he left the only available journal bearing upon Tombstone's early years.

This entertaining and compelling journal, first transcribed by the WPA in 1932 and published in 1972, has been redesigned and set in type. Obvious errors which crept into the WPA transcription have been corrected, and an introduction added, which casts light on George Parsons' background, personality and his eventful life after leaving Tombstone. Annotations and an index compliment the volume, as do engravings taken from the *Arizona Quarterly Illustrated* and the *Mining and Scientific Press,* two contemporary publications. This attractively designed hard cover book of 273 pages is composed in 6" x 9" format. It has printed endsheets and the dust jacket is in color. This is Volume 65 of Westernlore's Great West and Indian Series. ISBN 0-87026-095-2. As this edition is limited to 1,000 copies only, we suggest you reserve your book now. Price: $36.95

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July 1996
Vol. 43, No.7
Whole No. 339

Page 14

FEATURES

14 **Cattle Drive.** *By Ann Waybright Childs.* A Civil War veteran trails cattle and dreams from Missouri to Colorado.

20 **Juana Maria: Killed By Kindness.** *By Russell E. Ewing.* Marooned on San Nicolas Island off the California coast, a Chumash woman survives eighteen years alone.

24 **Soap Lake, Buckaroo Bubble Bath.** *By Cheryl Landes.* Desert lake's legendary healing powers drew cure-seekers from around the world.

31 **True West Legends: Calamity Jane.** See the West's most famous woman, Martha Jane Cannary, in her best buckskin finery.

DON'T FENCE ME IN: SPECIAL SUMMER TRAVEL SECTION. Let *True West* be your trail guide on this year's vacation. • **Oklahoma Pharmacy Museum**, 35 • **John Slaughter's Ranch**, 38 • **Chisholm Trail Museums**, 42 • **Montana Museums**, 44 • **California Stagecoach Inn**, 48 • **South Dakota Heritage Center**, 51 • **Homestead National Monument**, 53.

Page 20

DEPARTMENTS

3 **From the Editor**

4 **Truly Western**

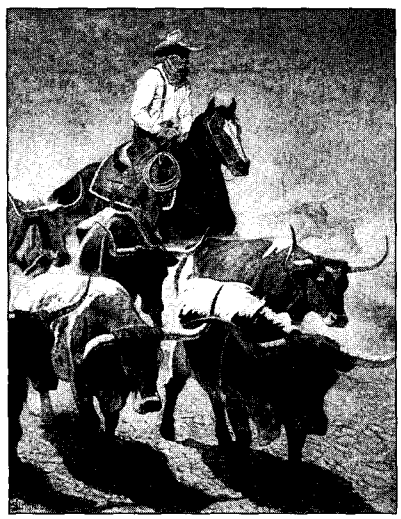
6 **Western Roundup**

10 **Western Logbook**

54 **Books**

58 **Answer Man**

61 **Wild Old Days**



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Page 44

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FROM THE EDITOR

Howdy, folks!

Seems like every time my hometown of Cheyenne, Wyoming, is in the news it's on account of some such disaster as a tornado, or a flood, or a plane crash that kills a little girl. Like as not, during the course of reporting the bad news, the newspapers and television stations will run at least one story on the remarkable way the townsfolk pull together to help each other through the tragedy.

But because I was reared in Cheyenne, it doesn't seem so unusual to me when people pitch in and do their part for the good of their community. For in spite of the fact that Cheyenne has its share of factions, fussing, and feuding, it was built on a pioneering spirit that in the worst of times and in the best of times draws people together for the common good.

I can't think of any better example of that spirit than Cheyenne Frontier Days. The one hundredth annual "Daddy of 'em All" will come out of the chute July 19–28. The promotional brochure isn't exaggerating when it bills the event as "a ten-day wingding of street dances, parades, carnival rides, top-name entertainers, free pancake breakfasts, cowboys, Indians, and horses...all topped off by the rodeo known among the cowboys as the 'Daddy of 'em All.'"

For a few days every year, that "wingding" turns Cheyenne from a quiet and relaxed town into a buzzing, international city. My friend Chip Carlson, whose writing has appeared in this humble magazine and who is on the Cheyenne Frontier Days staff, expects this year's attendance at the rodeos and night shows to top 250,000. He foresees another 100,000 souls coming through the gates just to walk the grounds, see the sights, and enjoy the carnival. He projects 50,000 visitors will wander through the authentic Indian village in Frontier Park. And those free pancake breakfasts? Have you ever considered opening your kitchen table to 35,000 hungry cowboys and cowgirls.

The rodeo is one of the three or four biggest in the world, and many competitors consider the Cheyenne Frontier Days buckle to be the most prestigious. The night shows star top entertainers like Kathy Mattea, Randy Travis,Garth Brooks, Vince Gill, and George Strait. The parades—four of them—feature one of the world's largest collections of horse-drawn vehicles, equestrian units, marching bands, floats, cars, and drill teams. People who understand money estimate that the whole affair has a $19 million impact on Cheyenne's economy.

Now, do you want to know how many employees it takes to organize all that?

Nine.

And do you want to know who does the rest?

Two thousand volunteers. From the general chairman and the executive director on down.

That means that in a city of about 50,000 people, one in twenty-five gives freely of his or her time to the event. The most important result of all that might be the the roughly 600 full-time jobs that Frontier Days brings to Cheyenne. Or it just might be the community spirit, for Frontier Days isn't simply an important cog in Cheyenne's economy—it *is* Cheyenne. It defines the community and its people, and the people of the community define it.

The best thing about all of this is that although Cheyenne Frontier Days is unique, Cheyenne is not. All through the West are hundreds of cities and towns grounded in the same pioneering spirit and the same principles of working together. That's what has always been special about the West and, Lord willin', always will be.

John Joerschke

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TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

I really enjoyed "Magical Fort Assinniboine," by Peter Brandvold (*True West*, May 1996). However, the ending was all wrong.

Several of the buildings may appear "derelict in an overgrazed pasture surrounded by barbed wire," but a closer look would prove otherwise. The Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, of which I am a member, has been working on cleaning out and stabilizing the buildings for several years, giving summer tours, and researching the post's history.

We have raised about $45,000 and have $45,000-plus in grants pending to complete the work on seven buildings, besides an archaeological survey to be done this summer. We also have placed the fort on the National Register of Historic Places and have completed a historical architectural survey.

You see, it's a new beginning, not an ending.—*Gary A. Wilson, Co-Chair, Tourism Committee, Havre Chamber of Commerce, Havre, Montana.*

Editor's Note: Thanks for the update, Gary! Being's how historic preservation is near and dear to my heart, I was mightily pleased to hear about the good work you all are doing.

Texas Christmas Celebration

The John Wesley Hardin pullout section (*True West*, May 1996) dates his shooting of Benjamin B. "Jim" Bradly on December 25, 1869. I have also seen the date given as January 4, 1870. Which is correct?—*Johan Mattson, Jarfalla Sweden (e-mail 103424TV3&infral.se).*

Editor's Note: The best sources on Hardin in our library are his autobiography and *John Wesley Hardin: Texas Gunman*, by Lewis Nordyke. Both give the date of the shooting as December 25, 1869. Nordyke seems to be repeating Hardin's recollection of events, which might have been clouded by time. We'd welcome any evidence that the fight did not occur on Christmas Day, as Hardin recalled.

The Endangered Privy

Hello, John. I'm wondering if your readers can help me out. I collect little outhouses and am editor of an outhouse newsletter. I've been searching for information on and pictures of railroad depot outhouses.

They had to have had them. Even stagecoach passengers needed 'em at the end of the line. Outhouses were seemingly taboo and not many pictures of them were taken.

Outhouses are endangered, and we'd like to keep 'em alive. Thank you for any help you may provide.—*Connie Denault, Belton, Missouri.*

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Editor's Note: You can call me Mr. Joerschke. I'm not privy to the information you're trying to dig up; outhouses are too deep for me. But if anyone has the scoop, Connie's mailing address is PO Box 64, Belton, Missouri 64012.

Horse and Buggy Days to the Computer Age

I would like to correspond with anyone interested in the settlement of the Great Plains of Texas—the *Llano Esacado.* I was a three-year-old there at Petersburg, Texas, in 1903 when the free range was just starting to be fenced for dryland farming.

The roads from one settlement to another ran in straight lines like the spokes on a wagon wheel. They were just tracks on the virgin prairie; we had no graded roads because we had no cars.

My dad, J.W. Roberson, got one of the first cars in our vicinity to go from our farm to Plainview, Texas, when he was elected Hale County commissioner from Precinct 2. It was a 1913 Model T Ford that had to be hand cranked, as it had no battery.

Before he got the Model T, he and I would ride in a wagon to Plainview and camp three or four days in a wagon yard by the courthouse. My cousin, Homer Roberson, just resigned as commissioner in that district last year on account of poor health.

I have lots to tell about those bygone days. My mailing address is 4215 Midlothian Court, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909.—Carl L. Roberson, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Your letters and comments are welcome. Please keep letters to 300 words or less. All letters received by Western Publications will be considered for publication unless otherwise stipulated in the letter. Space does not permit us to print all letters we receive. Be sure to include full name, address, and zip code. Photos are welcome. Address all letters to Western Publications, PO Box 2107, Stillwater, OK 74076. E-mail us at, Western@cowboy.net. Due to the volume of mail, we cannot forward correspondence to people whose letters appear in "Truly Western."

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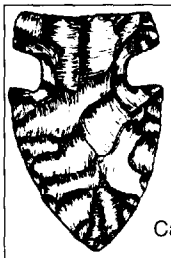
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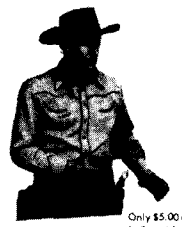
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FORT HUACHUCA

Home of the Buffalo Soldiers

The Fort Huachuca Museum

Noncommissioned officers' quarters, Fort Huachuca, in the late 1800s.

In February 1877, Colonel August V. Kautz, commander of the Department of Arizona, ordered that a camp be established in the Huachuca Mountains. Situated at a higher and cooler elevation, well watered, and strategically located to block the movement of hostile Indians and outlaws, the army designated Fort Huachuca a permanent post in 1882. Fort Huachuca and the soldiers garrisoned there played critical roles in the brutally exhausting Apache wars that dragged on through the late 1870s until Geronimo's final surrender in 1886 and later during the troubled years of the Mexican Revolution. While the end of the Apache wars also meant an end for many forts and camps that had been established to secure the southwestern frontier in Arizona and New Mexico, Fort Huachuca continued the fight against renegade Indians, bandits, outlaws, and "free booters."

In 1866 the army formed six black regular regiments—the Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth, Fortieth, and Forty-first infantries and the Ninth and Tenth cavalries. Later, as part of an army-wide reduction of forces, the Thirty-eighth and Forty-first were consolidated to form the Twenty-fourth Infantry and the Thirty-ninth and Fortieth made up the new Twenty-fifth Infantry. The Twenty-fourth Infantry participated in 1875 expeditions against hostile Kiowas and Comanches in Texas. The Twenty-fifth spent its first ten years in Texas, building and repairing military posts, roads, and telegraph lines, performing escort and guard duty, and scouting for Indians. In 1890 the Twenty-fifth participated in the Pine Ridge Campaign and later quelled civil disorders during the Northern Pacific Railroad strike in 1894.

The most renowned of the black regiments was the Tenth Cavalry Regiment, or "Buffalo Soldiers." Its commander, Benjamin H. Grierson, set out to build a unit composed of "superior men...who would do credit to the regiment." The Tenth's record in several Indian war cam-

Fort Huachuca Public Affairs Office

The monument to the Buffalo Soldier, dedicated in 1977, greets the visitor to Fort Huachuca at the Main Gate.

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paigns attests to the fact that Grierson achieved his goal. In 1886, the Buffalo Soldiers tracked Geronimo and his band into the Piñito Mountains and several months later ran down Mangas and the last Apache resistance to federal control.

The first black regiment at Fort Huachuca was the Twenty-fourth Infantry, which arrived in 1892 and remained until 1896. Two companies of the Twenty-fifth garrisoned Huachuca after service in the Spanish-American War, and A Company remained there until April 1899. Troops of the Ninth Cavalry joined the Twenty-fifth Infantry at Huachuca and remained there until 1900.

The era of the Buffalo Soldiers truly began at Fort Huachuca in December 1913, when the Tenth Cavalry arrived. Previously the Tenth had rotated throughout several posts in Arizona and New Mexico, tracking down Apache renegades. So the startling vistas were not new to many of those veterans. Nor was the relentless desert sun a stranger to those horsemen who doggedly followed the trail of Pancho Villa into Mexico in 1916. For eighteen years the Tenth called Huachuca home, the longest that mobile unit would stay in one place since its formation in 1866.

Right after their arrival at Huachuca, in 1914, the men of the Tenth were spread out at encampments along the Arizona-Mexico border from Yuma on the west to Naco on the east. They corralled their horses and stretched their tents at points scattered along the border—at Osborne, Nogales, Lochiel, Harrison's Ranch, Arivaca, Sasabe, La Osa, and San Fernando. Many of the troopers would sweat it out under canvas for as long as ten months before being rotated back to their home station in the cooler elevations of the Huachucas.

They were picketed along the border, not as some training exercise, but to enforce neutrality laws. The violence and turmoil of civil war that ripped Mexico apart from 1910 onward also alarmed statesmen in

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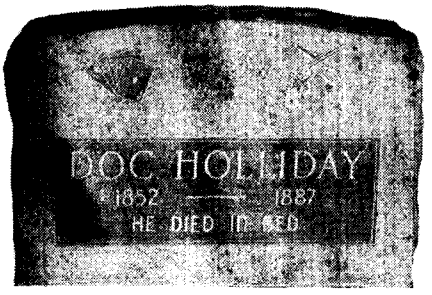

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Tenth Cavalry troopers and their "mounts" during the Pershing Expedition into Mexico

Washington, DC, who quickly legislated that no encroachments on United States soil be permitted. The Tenth also participated in the Pershing Expedition into Mexico to find Pancho Villa and bring him to justice for the bloody March 9, 1916, raid on Columbus, New Mexico.

The Tenth was finally relieved in 1931 by the Twenty-fifth Infantry Regiment, which continued the tradition of black soldiering. The Twenty-fifth served at Fort Huachuca until World War II, when they were incorporated into the newly formed Ninety-third Infantry Division, the first black division to see combat. The Ninety-third shipped to the Pacific in 1944.

To some blacks Huachuca was a mountain refuge far away from the immense struggle for equality taking place in America's streets and country lanes. For others it was a way to participate in the struggle, to take up a profession that offered dignity, service to the country, and maybe a warrior's death. For whatever reason they joined the army,

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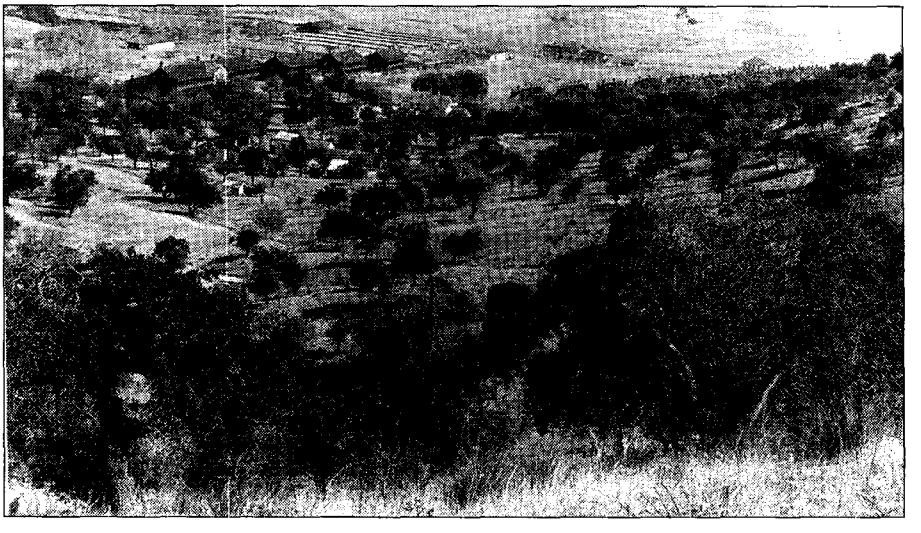

The Fort Huachuca Museum

General view of Fort Huachuca looking north about 1880.

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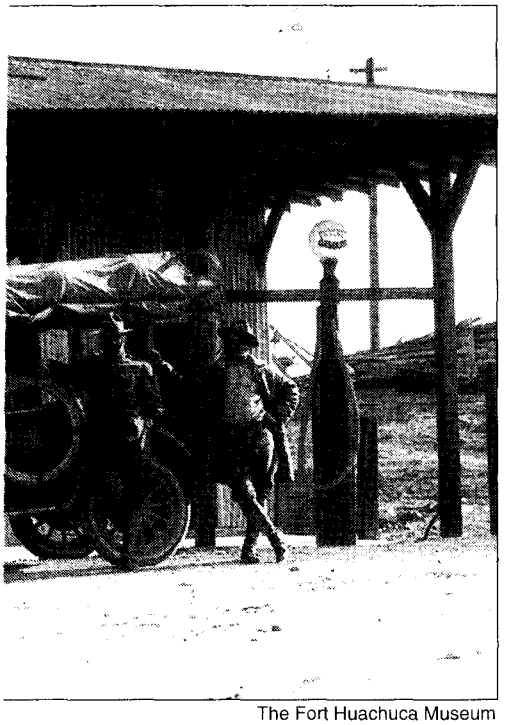

The Fort Huachuca Museum

1916–17.

The Fort Huachuca Museum

Tenth Cavalry Medical Detachment troopers with their ambulances.

Fort Huachuca would be an almost inevitable stop along their way. Some found it "a very fine place to serve." To others it was "an infamous place." For all it was, for a time, home. Black infantrymen and cavalrymen carved a place in history there. If the sobriquet "Buffalo Soldier" has come to stand collectively for the black men who served in the four regular army regiments from 1866 to World War II, then Fort Huachuca owns distinction as the "Home of the Buffalo Soldier."

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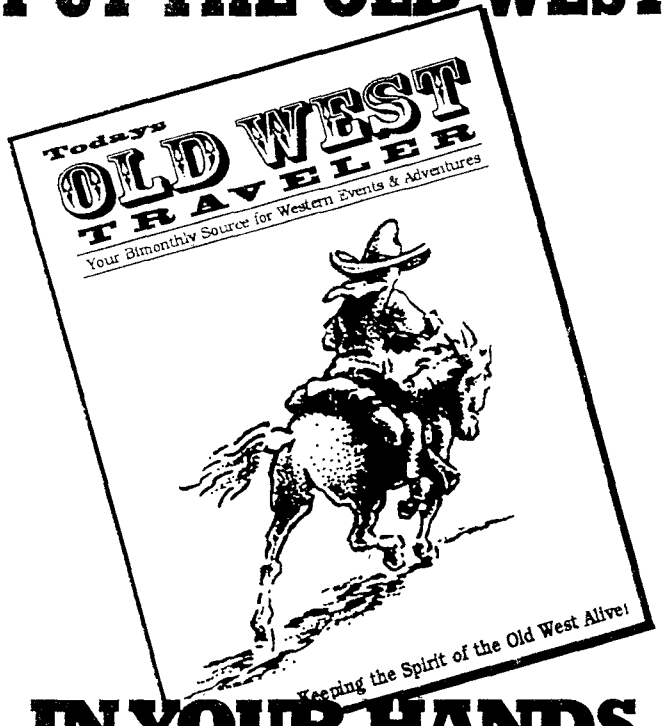

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THE UNITED STATES AND THE BEAR FLAG REPUBLIC

BY BILL O'NEAL

200 Years Ago

July 11, 1796; northwestern frontier. For years following the Revolutionary War, the fledgling United States protested Great Britain's stubborn refusal to abandon forts occupied along the northwestern frontier of their former American colonies. At last, on July 11, 1796, British troops abandoned the disputed outposts and United States soldiers immediately took possession of their frontier installations.

July 26, 1796; Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. George Catlin, destined to become the first important artist to depict Native Americans and their cultures, was born in Pennsylvania. Although Catlin studied law, he soon became a portrait painter. By 1830 Catlin resolved to portray what he realized was a vanishing way of life. During the 1830s he probed deep into the West to observe and record numerous tribes. The artist worked most effectively in watercolors, and he also wrote illustrated narratives about western Indians and about his adventures. He exhibited and lectured in the United States, Europe, and South America. Catlin died in 1872 at the age of seventy-six.

July 1846; California. During a Fourth of July celebration in Sonoma, a California Battalion was organized, comprised of 250 settlers and members of John C. Frémont's expedition. The militia elected Frémont their commander, and he announced plans to march south and seize control of California.

On July 7 Commodore John Sloat, aware that fighting had broken out between General Zachary Taylor and Mexican forces along the Rio Grande, led five warships off the coast of Monterey. Captain Mariano Sylva withdrew his small command, and the Stars and Stripes were raised above Monterey. Within the next few days naval parties took control of San Francisco and Sutter's Fort.

Soon Commodore John Stockton arrived in the frigate *Congress* with authority to assume command from the cautious Sloat. On July 23 Sloat happily stepped aside and planned his return to the United States. The aggressive Stockton incorporated Frémont's force as the California Battalion of the United States and proclaimed the annexation of California.

Author's Collection

During a shootout 125 years ago on the Chisolm Trail, trail boss Mannen Clements killed two of his drovers, Joe and Adolph Shaddens.

125 Years Ago

July 5, 1871; Jacksboro, Texas. Satanta, noted Kiowa chief, boasted freely around the Fort Sill Reservation about leading a raid on a wagon train in north Texas belonging to Henry Warren. Seven teamsters were slain in the May 17 assault, and when Big Tree and

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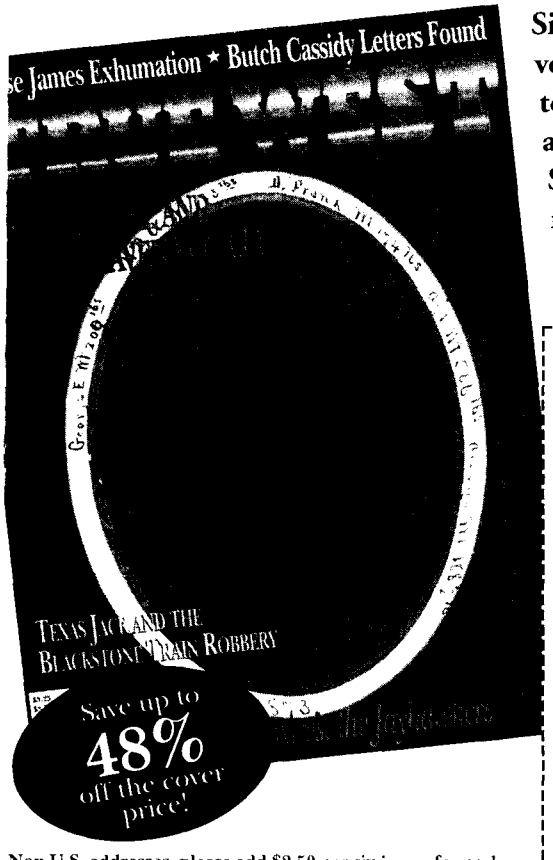

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Satank also bragged about the raid, all three Kiowa leaders were arrested. On the way to trial at Jacksboro, Texas, courageous old Satank sang his death song, then attacked his guards and was killed.

In Jacksboro the captives were met by a howling crowd, and during the trial—which the Kiowas did not comprehend—the little courthouse was jammed with hostile citizens. On July 5 a guilty verdict was handed down, and Satanta and Big Tree were sentenced to hang. But political pressure resulted in a change of sentence to life imprisonment. Governor E.J. Davis issued a controversial pardon in 1873, although authorities arrested Satanta again, accusing him of leading raiders off the reservation. Returned to the state prison in Huntsville, the proud chief committed suicide in 1878.

Early July, 1871; Chisholm Trail, Kansas. While leading a herd of Texas longhorns toward Abilene, Mannen Clements began to have trouble with herders Joe and Adolph Shadden. In camp on a rainy night early in July, Joe Shadden pulled his revolver on Clements. But Mannen was already holding his gun beneath his slicker. He made his shot, mortally wounding Shadden. Adolph almost avenged his brother, drilling a hole through Mannen's slicker. Mannen grappled with Adolph, then ended the fight with another fatal shot.

July 13, 1871; Whetstone Mountains, Arizona. On July 13 in a canyon in the Whetstone Mountains, a detail of Company F, Fifth Cavalry, fought a sharp engagement against Apaches. Private Michael Glynn, confronted by eight warriors; stood his ground and fought like a wildcat. Five warriors were killed or wounded before the others fled. Glynn was awarded a Medal of Honor, along with First Sergeant Henry Newman and Private John Nihill, who were cited for "gallantry in action."

July 28, 1871; Denver, Colorado. At Denver's Union Depot, the first

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spike was driven in the narrow gauge Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

100 Years Ago

July 1896; Chicago, Illinois. In St. Louis in June the Republican Party nominated William McKinley as their presidential candidate. The Democratic convention was held in Chicago in July, with party leaders seeking the support of western and southern farmers who formed the backbone of the Populist movement during the 1890s.

Leading the Nebraska delegation was a two-term congressman, thirty-six-year-old William Jennings Bryan. Handsome and youthful, Bryan was a gifted speaker who became known as the "Boy Orator of the Platte." (Republican Joseph Foraker remarked that the title was descriptive, since, like the Platte River, Bryan "was six inches deep and six miles wide at the mouth.") Bryan mesmerized a convention crowd of 15,000 with a magnificent oration, and was awarded the nomination. During the months to come he traveled 18,000 miles and made nearly six hundred speeches. Every western state except California and Oregon, voted for him, as did the solid South. But the sparsely-populated West and the rural South did not offer enough electoral votes to offset McKinley's support in the populous northeast. Bryan served as the Democratic standard-bearer again in 1900 and 1908, but the West's first presidential candidate never won election.

July 11, 1896; Fort Smith, Arkansas. The "Rufus Buck Gang" of outlaws were captured following a vicious murder-rape-robbing spree in the Creek Nation in August 1895. Sentenced to hang by Judge Isaac Parker, the five outlaws were executed in Fort Smith. Rufus Buck, Lewis Davis, Lucky Davis, Sam Sampson, and Maomi July calmly met their fate in Fort Smith's last multiple hanging.

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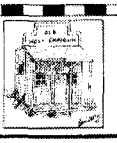

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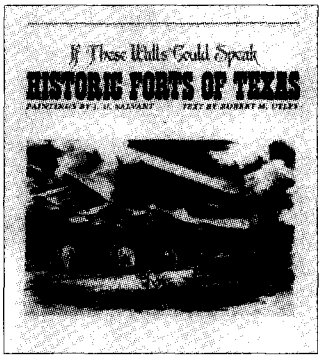

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CATTLE DRIVE

By ANN WAYBRIGHT CHILDS

(Denver)
July 13, 1874 Monday Evening

Dear Sister

Have been intending to write to you for several days thought I would write you . . . to tell you where to direct after we left here.

In company of J.C Fundenburghh and John Myers I start for Kansas City Mo tomorrow morning from there we go to South western part of Missouri expect to purchase some American heifers and drive to our Ranch on the Platte, will have our Granite herd brot down & have all together Expect to have quite an Extensive Dairy . . . when we get our stock all together.

I proved up on My PreEmption today and filed on a Homestead Claim I guess you dont better look for me around your house for awhile . . . For couple of Weeks my address will be Kansas City Mo although I will not be there but a day or two.

Dont forget my little Baby and take good care of her . . .

Hastily Yours
D.W. Springer

David Wallace Springer, aged thirty, had lived what some might call a lifetime by the time he wrote this letter. Having served four years with the Twentieth Indiana Volunteers in the Civil War, he left his father, brother, and sisters in Indianapolis within days of the war's end, to "settle on a piece of land" in the West. In St. Louis, he and his army friend J.C. Fundenburghh booked passage on the river packet *Tacony*, traveling more than eight hundred miles up the Missouri River to Omaha, Nebraska.

Disheartened at finding the most desirable land, the South Platte River valley, already owned by the Union Pacific Railroad, Springer concluded his fortune might lie instead with the railroad. That resolution took him back home for a course in telegraphy at the Bryant and Stratton Business College in Indianapolis. Equipped with a trade, on his second trip west he found work as a telegrapher with the Union Pacific as it forged its way toward the Rockies, first at Kearney, Nebraska, and then at Granite Canyon, a remote windswept spot west of Cheyenne, Wyoming. There in 1871, he brought his Indiana bride, who died two years later giving birth to baby May, whom he sent to be cared for by his favorite sister back home in Indianapolis. Disconsolate and alone, he quit both his job and Wyoming for a similar post in Julesburg, Colorado, where he was appointed postmaster. After establishing a claim near Sterling, he wrote his family that he was working on a sod house.

Prior to the July 13 letter, he wrote home of "riding my pony to Denver." He was detained two days near Greeley to help "a family whose team had strayed." He added, "My teeth be ready this evening cost $35 eleven of them 4 lower and 7 upper."

By July 20, a week after the Denver letter, he listed his expenses as: horse $75, halter 50 cents, board and lodging $1.50.

He wrote his account of the 1874 cattle drive in a small notebook, with soft lead pencil. The script, the quixotic use of capitals, and the absence of punctuation, contribute to the problem of transcribing it;

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cattle drive more than 120 years ago.

"Shawnee Kansas July 20 74 Arrived here (13 Miles from Kansas City):...one hundred degree heat in the shade...fine country plenty of Peaches Apples Berries etc etc a dusty ride...rode about 25 miles today Was detained about an hour acct my horse getting away while we were taking lunch at noon crops almost a failure in wheat and oats

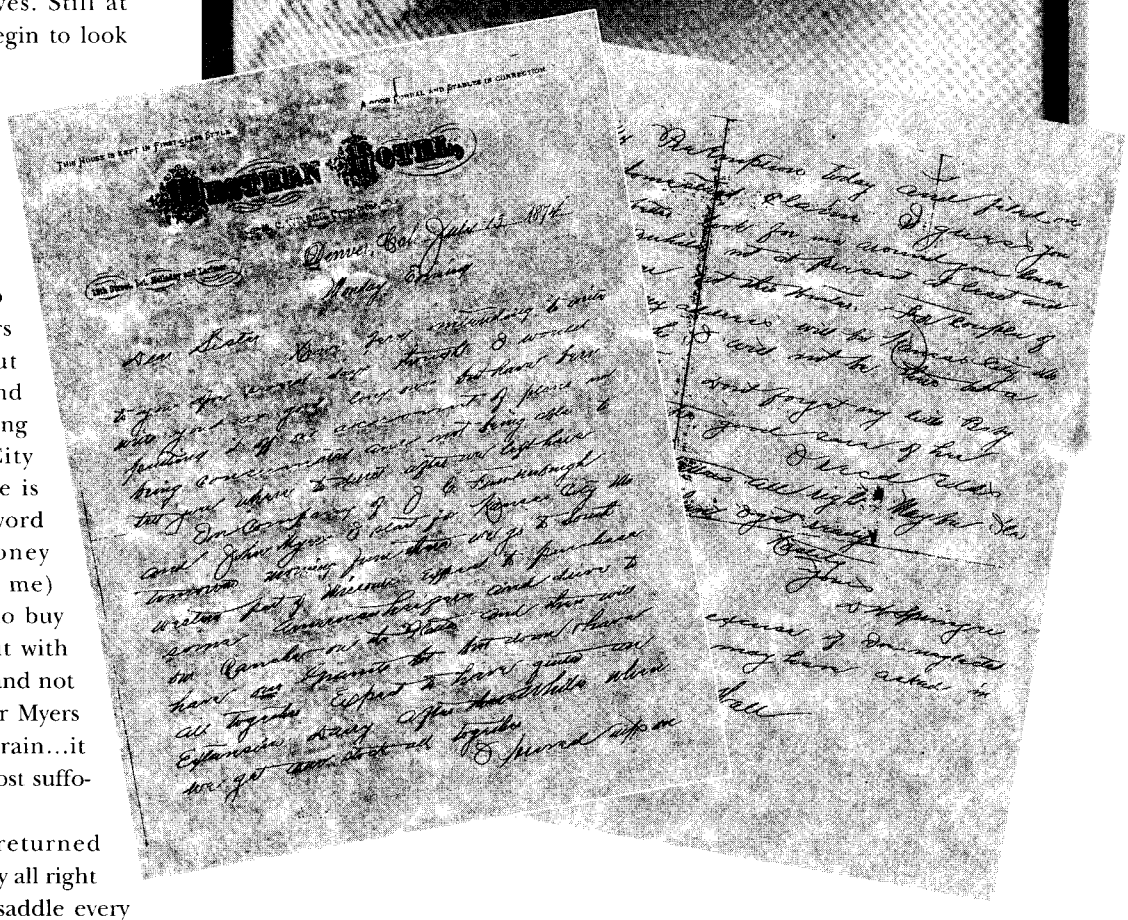
"July 24 Took dinner today at a Mr Robinsons house South of Butler Mr R is an old Indianain Our conversation being of Indiana my dinner cost nothing have bought but one cow..."

By the end of July they had bought 41 cows and 31 calves which they held in a field belonging to a Mr. Bradley "about 12 miles south of Nevada Vernon Co Missouri...will brand them by putting a T in their ears." The journal continues:

> August 5 1874...we now have 60 cows and 48 calves. Still at Bradley's...Matters begin to look a little blue...Our friend John Myers having gone to Kansas City last Tuesday week ago in company of JC Fundenburgh where each of them was to find thousand dollars at Express office but neither found any and JC Fundenburgh leaving John at Kansas City Where I Presume he is Still not hearing a word from him Our money (which belonged to me) which we are using to buy cattle has all run out with some cattle received and not paid for...We look for Myers every hour...Oh for rain...it is so dry and hot almost suffocating...
>
> August 6 Myers returned from Kansas City today all right
>
> August 12 In the saddle every day early till late at night...Mr. K delivered 3 cows and on his way

Author's Collection

David Wallace Springer as a Civil War Volunteer Soldier.



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Wallace's letter to his sister, dated July 13, 1874, written as he set out on the drive.

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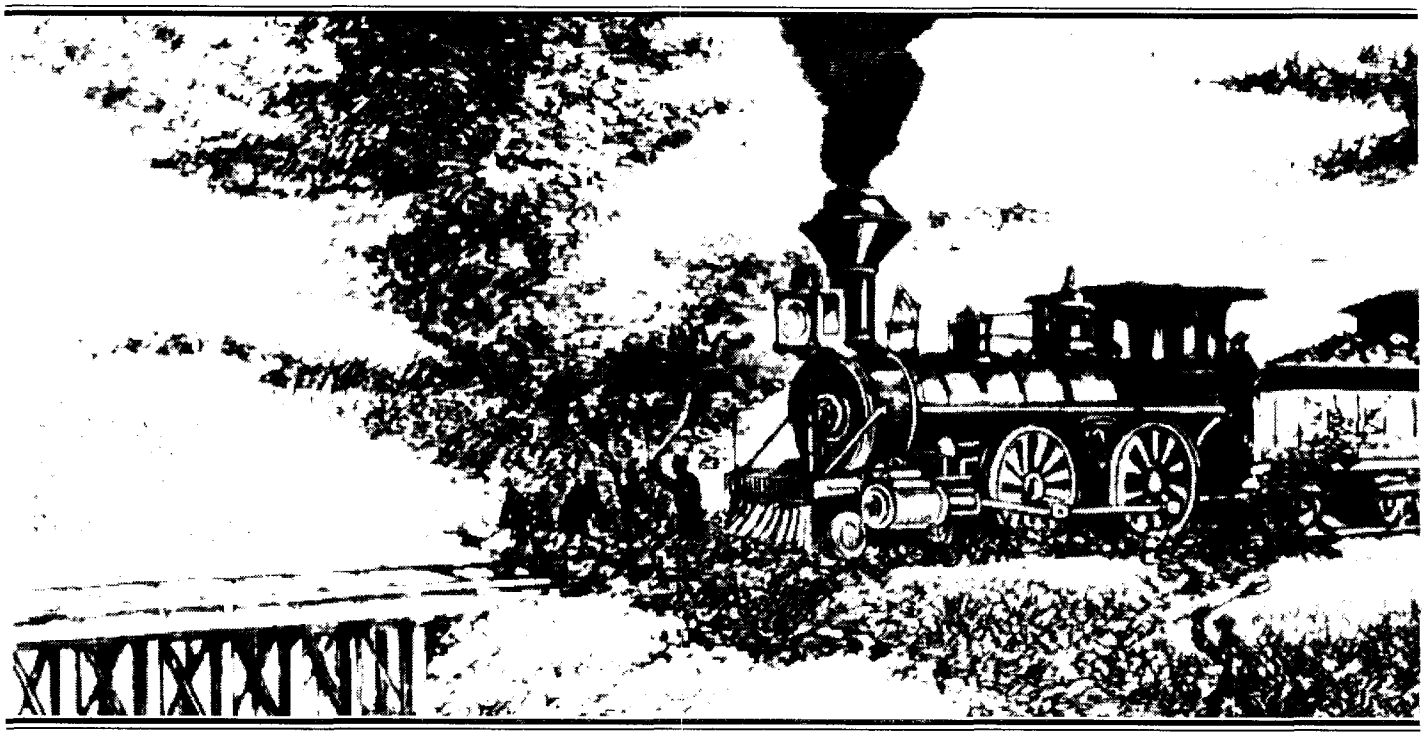

Depiction of a grasshopper storm near Kearney, Nebraska. Tracks became so slick with the insects' smasked remains

home his horse threw him and injured him...he died from the effects.

The following week they had acquired 102 cows and 75 calves. The party now consisted of six: Springer, Myers, and Fundenburgh, as well as Mr. Bradley, "who goes along part way with us," and two young men. "We pay expenses but no wages...We have 2 yokes of oxen and wagon and camp out every night."

August 19 Tuesday 1874 Although sorry to make entry of anything but pleasant things I feel that a diary should be record of most events which pertain to our daily life especially our happiness

JCFundenburgh and myself find it (or at least I do) hard to get along together agreeably and have about decided to disagree From some cause or to judge him not friendly it may be his nature he chooses to find fault with me for every trivial thing and abuses me roundly every opportunity I cannot imagine any Just cause for this he has a domineering spirit and wants to dictate in everything pertaining to the interests of the Company although so far he has invested not over one hundred dollars while Myers has a thousand and I fifteen hundred dollars...his dictatorship spirit...personal abuse...and chronic fault finding I am tired of it and guess we will hardly bear with him much longer Twice we have been on the brink of an open eruption He is a young man about Good Education. (a school teacher)....

More problems follow. Cows are lost going through some woods, "the boys" off looking for them. Fundenburgh continues to be a problem. Springer poured his misery over the clash with Fundenburgh into his diary: "We may have trouble getting him out of the firm. He acts Mulish Stubborn and Childish....

"August 23 My expenses will be much heavier than I thought now that [it] falls on two of us instead of 3. This biz I hope will teach me a lesson...it is not every person suited for partners in business...I am nearly sick to hear from home and my Baby...may God protect and guide her...."

Five days later they are in Kansas "...grasshoppers are destroying everything...the heat, the failed crops, chintz bugs, people so poor...make but a bear living...." Known as the Great Grasshopper Year, 1874 saw millions of them descending upon the land "in columns 150 miles wide and 100 miles long." It was said they could destroy 100 acres of corn in a matter of hours, and they were known to have stopped trains on the Union Pacific near Kearney, Nebraska.

Edwardsville Mo Aug 27 Thirteen miles west of Kansas City on the KPRR...I go to transact a little biz...bad luck or bad management seems to have followed us...nothing seems to work...our cattle got away...no sooner caught than our oxen run off and by the time we get all together the day is nearly gone...instead of 15 miles a day

We are lucky to make half that...cattle require constant care and watching Yesterday my horse while in a creek drinking got mired in mud & we had to pull her out with yoke of oxen Do not intend to be discouraged but keep strong heart...our losses are heavy

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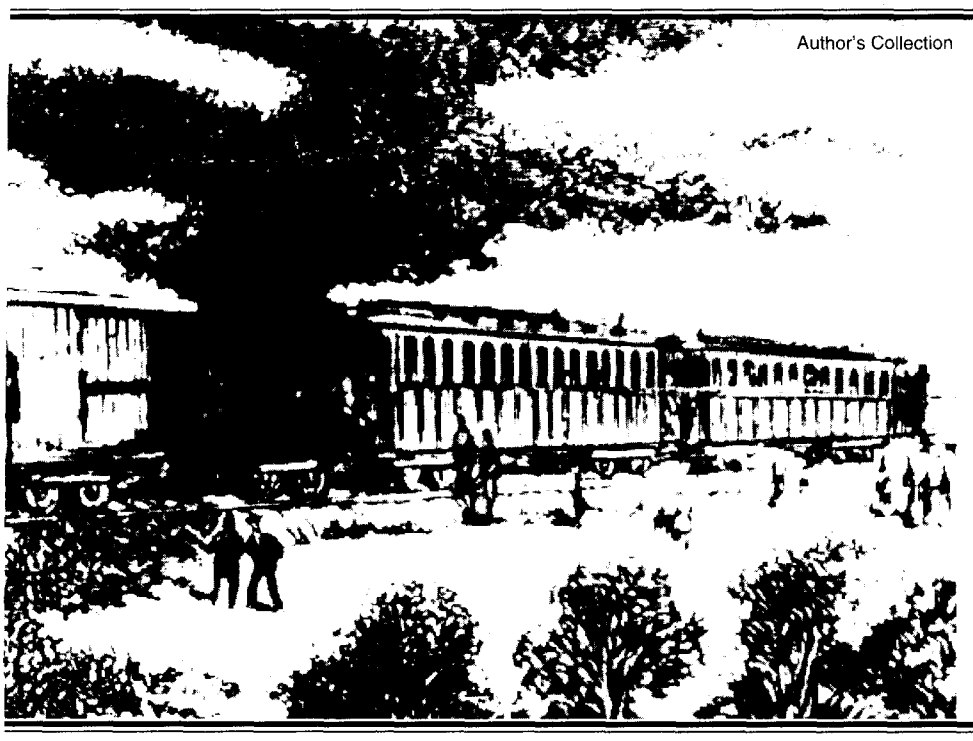

Author's Collection

. . .grasshoppers are destroying everything. . .th e heat, the failed crops, chintz bugs, people so poor. . .make but a bear living. . .

that trains could not proceed.

> mired in mud & we had to pull her out with yoke of oxen Do not intend to be discouraged but keep strong heart...our losses are heavy 6 cows and 3 calves & only about a sixth of the way....

While in Kansas City he wrote home that he was "tired ragged and very dirty not having a change of clothes in two weeks...must say I look sorry enough for sure." He noted, "...recd 5 [letters]...family at home and little baby all right."

August 30 they were on their way again, traveling seven miles that day. The diary describes the dry miserable state of the country they travelled through; every day they met "parties anxious to sell out and leave." A day's drive in the rain left them wet, cold, and tired, while "the boys seemed to enjoy the march judging from their hilarity & fun."

September 1 found Springer tired, looking forward to Sunday when they would rest. Writing, "Fundenburgh is still with us," he expressed the hope for no further trouble. "Expenses are not much our living is simple Bread bacon & coffee with very little variations of butter & green apples occasionally."

> September 6 Sunday...laying up & washing our dirty shirts...at times I feel I cannot endure the company of Fundenburgh and Myers They both seem to misconstrue me & differ with me...it will be a pleasure to be free of any and all partnership business They are both good men but F is conceited and bigoted and I had trouble with Myers regarding stopping for deserters...
>
> Marysville Marshall County Kansas Sept 10 1874...We pass families from the Western counties going back east everyday they say they are going back where they can raise something to eat and really I don't blame them...Judging from the present outlook I think there will be suffering in Kansas this winter Am getting a little homesick for my Baby...
>
> Sept 13 My health seems pretty good have not had a cold but still have dyspepsia We are in Little Blue River Valley a better country than we have been through Our boys are pretty jolly singing laughing joking all the time Fundenburgh and myself do not get along well On the smallest point he argues and makes capitol of He belittles almost all of my activities This seems pretty hard under the circumstances as he has not put in an hundred dollars in the firm and yet is to have one fourth interest in everything (Myers a one fourth) and I have nearly 1800 dollars invested (Myers has about five hundred dollars) Fundenburgh claims to be disappointed in not receiving his money and to make his trip not entirely without profit I proposed to let him have one fourth interest if he would go with us...to Colorado This proposition was made from the fact of his determining to dissolve on account of our disagreeable encounters....

Two pages in the little notebook are covered with more on this subject, but the writing is too smudged for reproduction. Personalities clashed; it was hard to resist a fight. Near the Little Blue River Springer wrote:

> What makes this trouble so agrivating is that Fundenburgh being an unusually well educated man for a western man and I thought of many pleasant hours I should pass in his society and expected to learn something of

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passed through today 115 miles from Kearney Last Sunday night and yesterday was terrible hard weather on us raining all the time and real cold we were thoroughly drenched and cold we managed to get cup of hot coffee and chocolate at a farmers house which fixed the boys all right today the sun comes out gloriously and trouble all gone We are compelled to herd our cattle through here on account of herd laws.

After three "rough days of raining blowing and slight fall of hail" they found a school house with a good stove and plenty of wood. He notes:

This part of the great plains or American desert now under cultivation and in good season produces corn that will turn off 80 to 100 bushels to the acre and wheat and other grains proportionally well The valley...is settled thickly but with a poor class of people judging from their houses. We are not having very good luck with our cows They give us trouble continuously straying off & wandering away several miles before we find them...

Sept 24 On the Platte River We reached here noon today about opposite Kearney Junction (on the UP RR) It seems good to be here and feel the beginning of the end and a great relief the trip is beginning to be tiresome and our horses are worn out and backs sore we walk half or more of the time Our journey will be right through the Platte Valley for 200 miles Hope to go to Omaha Saturday and return to the herd Monday or Tuesday. Herd will go right along

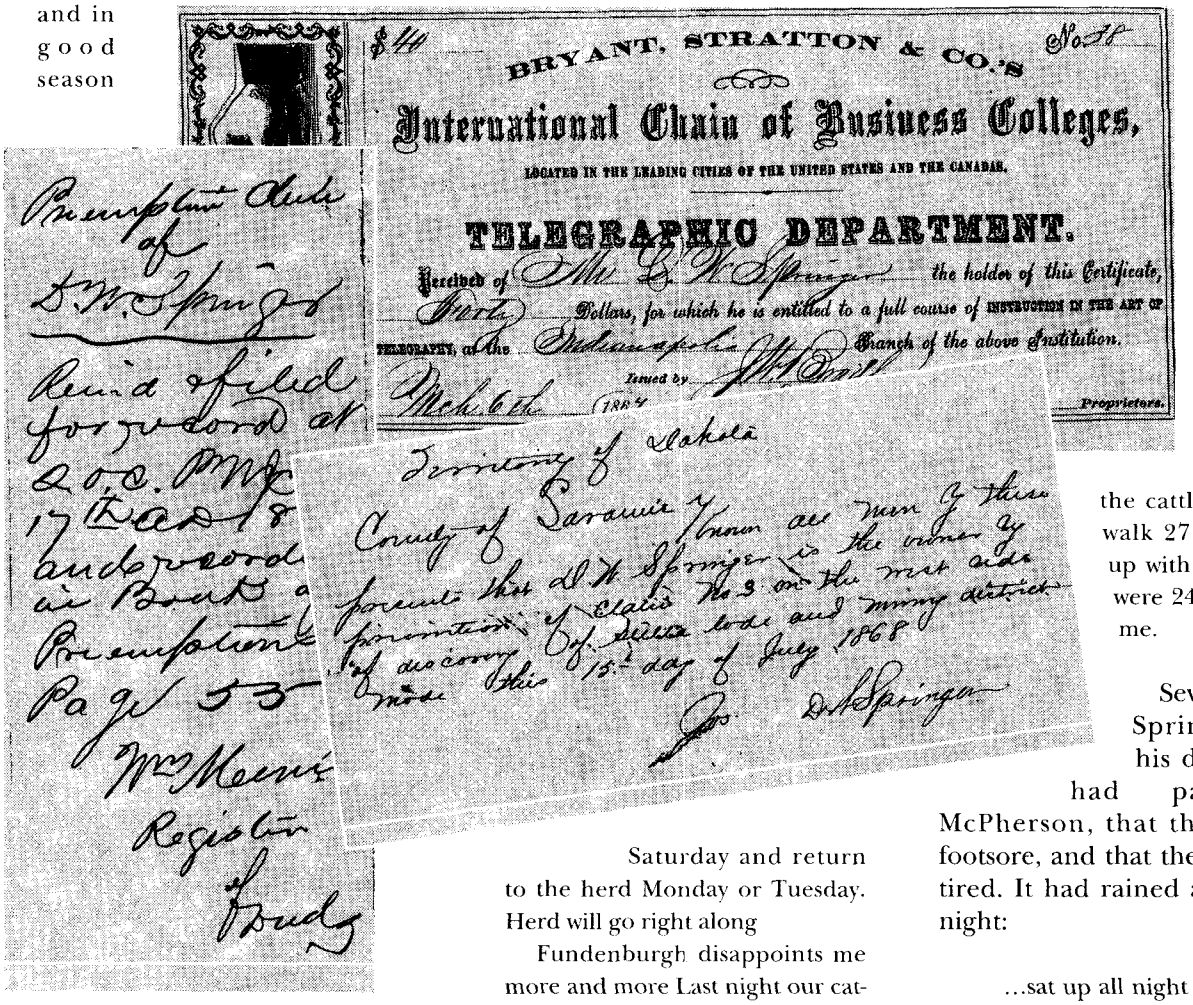
Fundenburgh disappoints me more and more Last night our cattle ruined a small patch of corn and did a little damage to some young trees for which we may have to pay damages JCF said that if we did that he would not pay any of it as he had advised that two guards be on duty all night He would be perfectly willing to have guards if he could get his own rest His quarrelsome disposition makes everything so unpleasant His fault finding grumbling bigotry selfishness stinginess does not suit me at all...hope the end of the trip will end all business connections with him...

On September 27 Springer wrote a letter from Omaha to his "Dear Ones" at home, "hope this winter will be my last to spend out of civiliation Want to go home in the spring but of course will have to return...I am desireous of living among white folks & think that after 1876 I can by that time...have my homestead and cattle in such a shape that it will not require my presence...in order to bring me an income... 'Castles in the Air.'"

Plum Creek Sept 30 Arrived last night this morning start across the river to find the boys and the cattle Later: had to walk 27 miles to catch up with the outfit They were 24 hours ahead of me.

Several days later Springer wrote in his diary that they had passed Fort McPherson, that the cattle were footsore, and that they were all very tired. It had rained all day and all night:

...sat up all night in the wagon Six of us Pretty rough prospect and not much better tonight at least the rain made the ground soft and damp which made the



Author's Collection

A diary entry, telegraph to family back home, and a land claim notice from David Springer's cattle drive of 1874.

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march much better for the cattle with their sore and heated feet

Oct 8 Near Ogallala Camping on the Platte River every night Plenty of antelope meat and buffalo Yesterday killed the first of the season (Buffalo) Nights are quite cold A party of emigrants 2 women & husbands & children in camp with us they are bound for Oregon Seems little romantic to have women & children in camp with us Oh Im getting homesick and want to see my friends at home more particularly my Baby

Julesburg Colo Oct 14 1874 Arrived here today JCF finds no money so Myers & myself take the cattle between us we go up the River tomorrow to my claim.

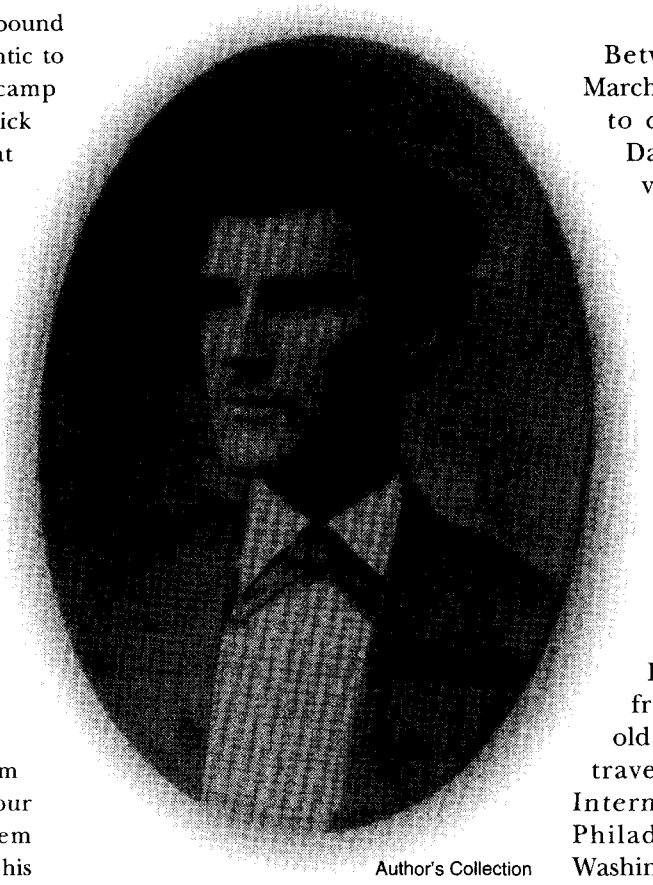
Oct 16 Arrived at my claim today and discover that the land...does not touch the River nor has it any hay land on it so I intend abandoning it.

Oct 20 Tuesday Moved camp over to a fine spring about 5 miles from the River Myers has gone up after his team to bring here & cut hay for our stock intending to keep them together this Winter but he let his out for one year to a Mr Brownell...came down with him to negotiate with me for Mine...

Oct 21 Have abandoned the idea of building my Ranch this Winter...have concluded to let Brownell have cows & calves for 3 years...this relieves me of all care of my stock for a good long time and gives me a chance to see some of my friends and probably some of the world as I am anxious to do....

Oct 23 We have divided the cattle today...I have branded all but 9 head which were sore footed and left behind about 10 miles down the river...go for them tomorrow...then Go up to near Sterling at Brownells place which by the way is but half a mile from my preemption claim Fine weather we are having now...

Oct 27...Brownells Ranch Arrived here this PM Just where I started from last July...Mr Brownell to take best care of whole stock Raise me good calves not to stint them...they to have at least half of the milk...



Author's Collection

David Wallace Springer.

November 5: Start for Julesburg today having turned over to Reuben H. Brownell everything belonging to me:

61 milk cows	2 saddles
4 heifers 18 months old	2 bridles
23 heifer calves	2 lariat ropes
2 steer calves	2 cow bells
2 steers 18 months old	2 sets cattle brands
2 work oxen	1 ox yoke & bows
1 Durham bull	1 ox chain large
2 American mares	

For the above I take his receipt and bonds for 10,000 dollars Signed by Brownell is to have the above in trust for 3 years from October twentieth eighteen hundred and seventy four (1874) Then he is to turn over to me all of the cattle enumerated above with all of their increase while the oxen horses saddles and other articles named are subject to my order at any time.

Between November 1874 and March 1877 when he returned west to collect and sell his cattle, David Wallace Springer led a varied, active life. He visited Golden and Central City, Colorado, and climbed Pike's Peak. In Julesburg, Colorado, he bought and later sold his half interest in a business whose letterhead read, "Groceries, Grain and Hunters' Supplies: Buffalo Robes, Hides, Furs, and Game." He returned home to become a partner in "Dennis & Springer: Groceries and Provisions" in Richmond, Indiana, not far from his sister and four-year-old May. In September 1876, he traveled east to visit the International Exposition in Philadelphia, stopping at Washington, New York, and Niagara Falls as well, a journey of three weeks.

Springer was to buy and sell several other businesses, his last a lumber business in Illinois. Ill health plagued him; the last several months of his life were spent in searching for what he called a healthful climate.

He died at age forty-one in 1885 at the home of his sister. His daughter May, raised by her aunt, was schooled in Indianapolis, graduated from Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana, and the New York State Library School in Albany, New York. She married a former Franklin College classmate in 1902, raised two children, and died in 1949 in Madison, Indiana.

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Juana Maria

Killed By Kindness

By Russell E. Ewing

Illustrations By Al Martin Napoletano

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On October 19, 1853, at Santa Barbara, California, an Indian woman was buried in the Mission cemetery. Her interment brought to its sad ending a survival story with no equal.

The woman was Juana Maria, now celebrated in California history as "The Lost Woman of San Nicolas Island." The most distant in the chain of Channel Islands, San Nicolas lies sixty miles off of the coast of California.

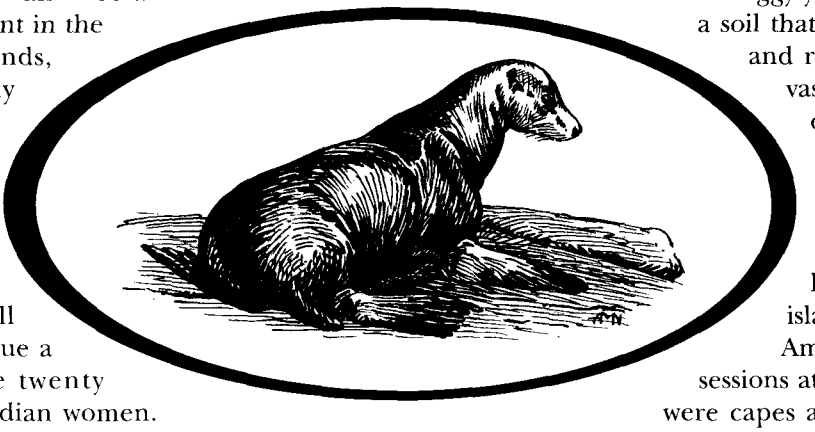
Juana Maria's story began in July 1835, when the governor of Alta California sent a small cargo schooner to rescue a lonely band of some twenty Canalino Chumash Indian women. The women, survivors of a tribe that once numbered in the hundreds, had been left to fend for themselves after a party of Alaskan Indian otter hunters took possession of the island and the women. When the Chumash men protested, the invaders killed every male of the tribe.

American otter hunters eventually drove the Alaskan Indians off the island. Left behind, the women were unable to provide for themselves and quickly fell victim to starvation and disease.

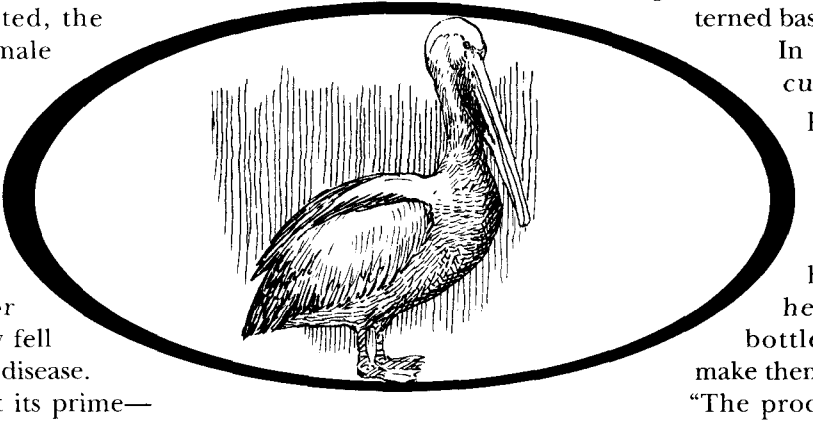
The ship—long past its prime—was appropriately named the *Peor es Nada* ("Worse than Nothing"). It anchored offshore in open water to avoid the risk of being driven aground by gusty winds.

The crew gathered the Indian women on the beach to board a small boat that would take them to the anchored schooner. As they waited, one of them asked to return to her home to look for a child she thought had been left behind.

While she was gone, the weather suddenly turned stormy and forced the captain to lift anchor and head away from the island. Planning to return for the woman once the storm was over, he ordered the ship to sail to San Pedro.



At San Pedro, however, after putting the passengers ashore, the ship's owners told the captain to sail to San Francisco to pick up a cargo of lumber. Just off the Golden Gate, the *Peor es Nada* was caught in another powerful storm. The ship turned turtle in the heavy seas and sank. Though no lives were lost, crew members claimed the fate of the unfortunate ship was preordained. They said the capsizing was her final protest against the indignity of the name on her bow.



Left on the island to fend for herself, the Indian woman was slow to adjust to life alone. That despite the advantage of having been raised there. As the days slid into weeks, long spells of depression left her weak and near starvation. The weeks stretched into months. The months became years.

Despite being barren, cold, and often foggy year around, and having a soil that consisted only of sand and rocks, the island held a vast potential storehouse of food. The surrounding waters teemed with life. Seals and sea otters basked on the beaches. Birds of all kinds nested on the island.

Among her personal possessions at the time of her rescue were capes and dresses made from pelican skins, and feathers pointing downwards to shed water. Heavier clothing made from seal and sea otter skins was also found. From the heavy sea grass that washed ashore, Juana Maria wove beautifully patterned baskets and bottles.

In his story about the rescue of the lost woman published in the 1883, *History of Santa Barbara County, California,* George Nidever described how the woman lined her woven baskets and bottles with asphaltum to make them waterproof.

"The process...was rather ingenious," he wrote, "She put several pieces of the asphaltum, which is found in great quantity along the beach, in the bottom of the basket, and then on top of them some hot pebbles. When the asphaltum was melted, by a quick, rotary motion she would cover the inside of the basket with an even coating, after which, the surplus with the rocks, was thrown out. These baskets were

Left on the island to fend for herself, the Indian woman was slow to adjust to life alone. The weeks stretched into months.

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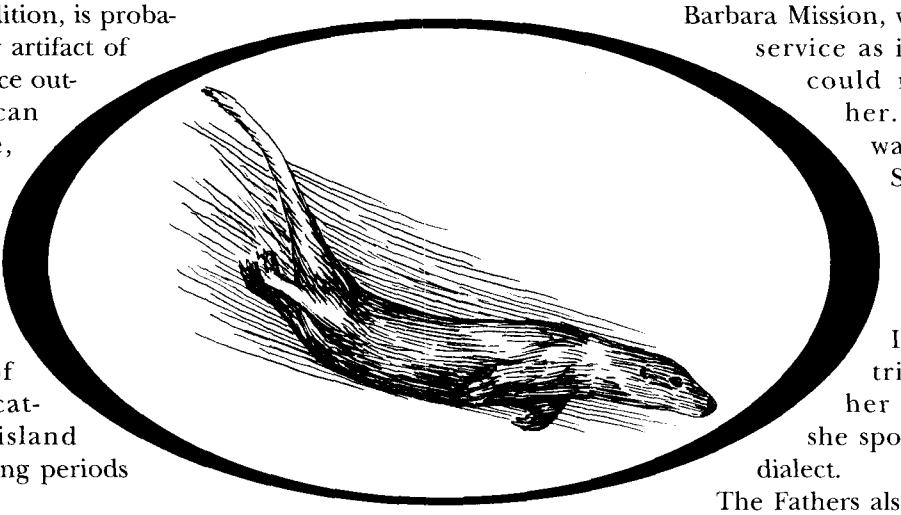
water-tight, and would last a long time."

One of her unlined baskets is permanently displayed at Santa Ynez, California. The Santa Ynez basket, still in excellent condition, is probably the woman's only artifact of Juana Maria's existence outside the Vatican Museum in Rome, Italy.

For shelter the woman built huts with ribs from beached whales which she covered with brush. Each of the several huts scattered about the island showed signs of varying periods of occupancy.

Juana Maria hunted at night and clubbed sleeping seals with large rocks. Eventually the story of the lost woman became a legend in the Santa Barbara community. Fishermen and hunters frequently reported "phantom" sightings on the island.

In 1850, Padre Gonzales of the Santa Barbara Mission asked a Santa Barbara sea captain, George Nidever, to search the island for the woman. Captain Nidever made three trips to the island. On the third, in July 1823, he made his most determined effort. Starting at the southern tip of the nearly seven-mile-long island, Nidever arranged his searchers several hundred feet apart in a line. The captain himself first spotted the woman seated on the side of a hill, calmly watching the men search for her.



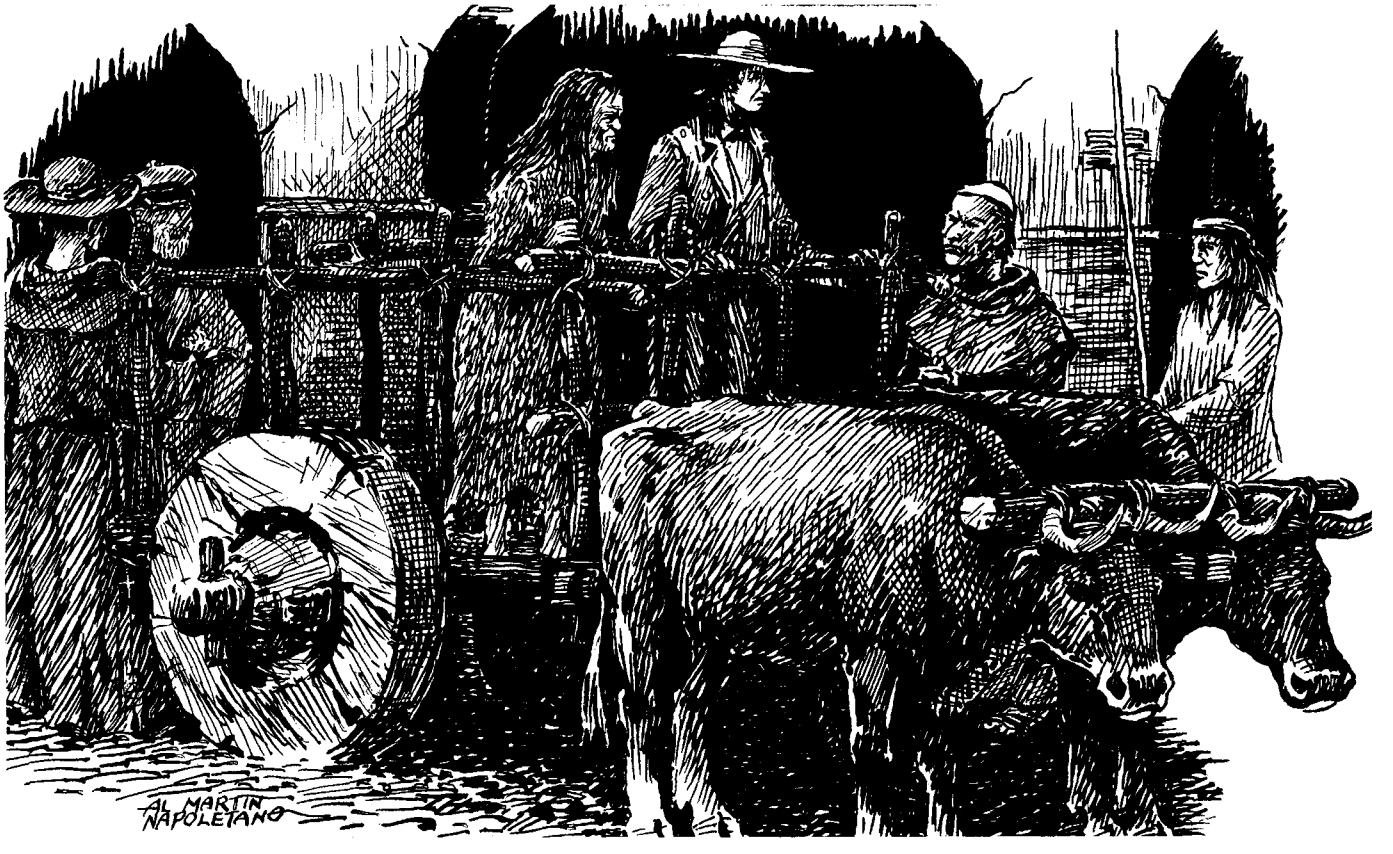
She showed no fear. Yet she made it known by hand signs that she would not have joined them if they had not come upon her. No trace of a child was ever found.

The four Indian members of the search party, residents at the Santa Barbara Mission, were pressed into service as interpreters but could not understand her. Later after she was brought to Santa Barbara aboard Captain Nidever's ship, Mission Fathers, versed in several Indian languages, tried to question her and discovered she spoke an unfamiliar dialect.

The Fathers also tried communicating with her through Indians brought to Santa Barbara from other missions. Those efforts proved unsucessful.

The mission priests reached the unhappy conclusion that the other members of her band had died. She remained the lone survivor—the last speaker of the island tribe's language.

Captain Nidever had gone to the



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island to hunt and fish and did not feel compelled to change his plans because of the woman. Not until more than a month after finding her did he bring her to the padres at the Santa Barbara Mission. When they arrived, he found that word of her rediscovery had preceded him. He and the woman had become instant celebrities.

Nidever gave the woman's birdskin dresses and most of the other artifacts recovered from her island shelters to the Mission padres. The padres in turn sent the birdskin dresses to Rome for presentation to the Pope. All of her other belongings, with but one exception—the Santa Ynez basket—were lost over the years.

Juana Maria, who had suffered for so long, was such a popular attraction in Santa Barbara that Captain Nidever had to turn down numerous offers to exhibit her at fairs and circuses.

Sadly, though, the lost woman was not to see and enjoy much of her new life. Within six weeks of her arrival at Santa Barbara the change in her diet sickened her. Unaccustomed to food beyond her island fare she became deathly ill. A Mission priest summoned to her bedside baptized her and christened her "Juana Maria." He then administered the Catholic Church's last rites.

Although she had survived eighteen years alone on San Nicolas Island, death came to Juana Maria seven weeks to the day after her arrival at Santa Barbara. She was believed to have been about fifty years old.

In an article for an 1883 history of Santa Barbara County, Nidever wrote, "She was a child in every respect, with no control over her appetite. She was excessively fond of fruit, which she would eat at all hazards. It produced a dysentery, which in spite of careful nursing and attendance, terminated fatally in about four weeks."

Nidever also wrote, "During her sickness it was thought that a diet of seal's meat such as what she had been accustomed to, would relieve her.

Eventually the story of the lost woman became a legend in the Santa Barbara community.

"Juana refused the seal's meat and rubbed her fingers over her teeth to show how they had become worn down to the gum line, caused by her prolonged diet of dried meat and other rough foods."

According to Nidever and those who attended her in her final illness, her changed diet and the pampering she received after her rescue contributed greatly to her early demise. In the end Juana Maria was the unintended victim of her benefactors—"Killed with kindness" could well have been her epitaph.

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Soap Lake, Buckaroo Bubble Bath

By Cheryl Landes

Soap Lake bathing beach and pier from a free campground in the 1920s.

As long as cowboys have ridden the range, they have enjoyed two forms of relaxation at the end of a long day's hard work—hearty dinners and spinning yarns around the campfire. In one of their tales, a buckaroo dies and is buried in the dark brown mud along the Soap Lake shoreline in the central Washington desert. A few days later, he surprises his former companions when he rides into their main camp on a cayuse he found on the range. When they ask him about his miraculous recovery, he says the minerals from the lake's waters seeped into his body and revived him.

The cowboys who drove cattle and sheep through central Washington must have believed the story, for they chose Soap Lake as one of their regular camping spots. They bathed their horses and blankets in its alkali waters to prevent saddle sores and used the mud to cure snake bites. When they moved sheep from one ranch to another, they drove the herds through the lake to remove ticks from their thick wool.

Chances are these remedies and the buckaroo story were inspired by similar tales told by Indians who assembled at the lake during their annual hunting and gathering trips. The Indians called Soap Lake *Smokiam*, meaning "healing waters" or "medicine lake," and declared it a place where no wars would be fought. Long before any white man discovered the lake, tribes from as far away as the Great Plains came there to gather camas roots, race horses, trade goods, and heal their sick in the steam huts they built along the shoreline. Even the healthy would use the huts to cleanse their bodies of disease-causing impurities. The cowboys were probably the first people to change the lake's name to Soap Lake after the frothy, soapy bubbles the breezes whipped up along the shoreline.

Lucy B. Gray became the first white settler to homestead on the lakeshore—selecting a parcel on the southwestern corner of the lake in 1903. The next year, Carl Jensen opened the first store on the south shore of the lake, and the town of Soap Lake was born. The Siloam Hotel, the first sanitarium, was built in 1906 and expanded quickly as people came from around the world to heal their rheumatism, circulatory disorders, and skin conditions by soaking in the mineral waters and taking mud baths.

Within three years, it grew from thirty rooms to forty-five on 420 acres with lake frontage. Even with the extra rooms and three new hotels nearby, there was not enough space to accommodate all the guests, so the owners set up overflow tents behind their hotels. An early resident whose parents owned one of the hotels said he remembered coming home often on summer evenings and discovering his bedroom had been rented.

Travelers had to take one of the four daily trains to Ephrata, six miles west of Soap Lake, or Adrian, five miles east of Soap Lake, and hire a ride the rest of the way. A hack and driver from each sanitarium met every train. Most people came without reservations and were too sick to protest when the strongest or fastest driver shanghaied them. Competition was so fierce that the drivers

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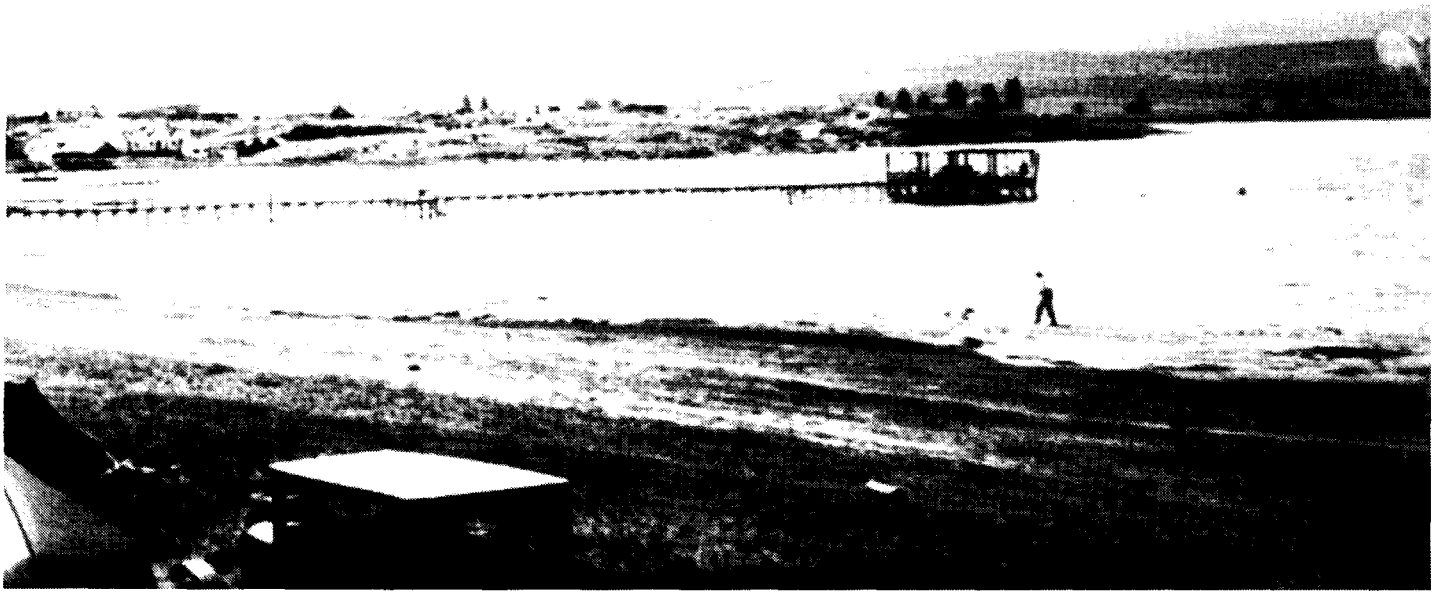

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often brawled until the sheriff broke them up. Finally, the Northern Pacific Railroad set up a special parking lot and a rotating system to give each hotel a turn to pick up its passengers. The ride shortened in 1911, when a new station opened at Grand Orchards, two miles from Soap Lake.

By the time the town was officially incorporated in 1919, Soap Lake had an atmosphere and reputation similar to New Orleans. Four resort hotels, rooming houses and apartments, and businesses catering to campers by renting tents, boats, and bathing suits boomed. Hotel guests often regained their health in time to seek entertainment, and residents of the sparsely populated county were always "hot just to get to be with someone," according to one old-timer. It was impossible to walk down the main street on summer nights because of the crowds strolling the sidewalks. Restaurants, saloons, and the weekly dances at the Siloam Hotel were well attended.

With continued growth came new problems. Battles started between men over their desire to court the same woman. One dispute ended when a jilted lover stood on Main Street and blasted a rival's house with a shotgun. Fortunately his target dodged the pellets, which flew through the front wall and out the back, but a doctor had to treat him for wounds inflicted by flying splinters.

Guns were finally outlawed in town because fun-seekers would sit on the shore of Soap Lake and take pot shots at low-flying birds, narrowly missing swimmers.

Guns were finally outlawed in town because fun-seekers would sit on the shore of Soap Lake and take pot shots at low-flying birds, narrowly missing swimmers. Swimming in the lake without bathing suits caused an uproar with the prominent townsfolk, so local newspapers reminded swimmers to dress appropriately. Cowboys and city officials locked horns over the main street, the same route used for the cattle drives. City officials did not believe herding cattle through the center of town created a good impression for the tourists and asked the cowboys to move the trail. The cowboys refused, so the town built a stockade, impounded stray animals, and charged a dollar a head for their release. The cowboys retaliated by sneaking into town one night and destroying the corral. After towns-

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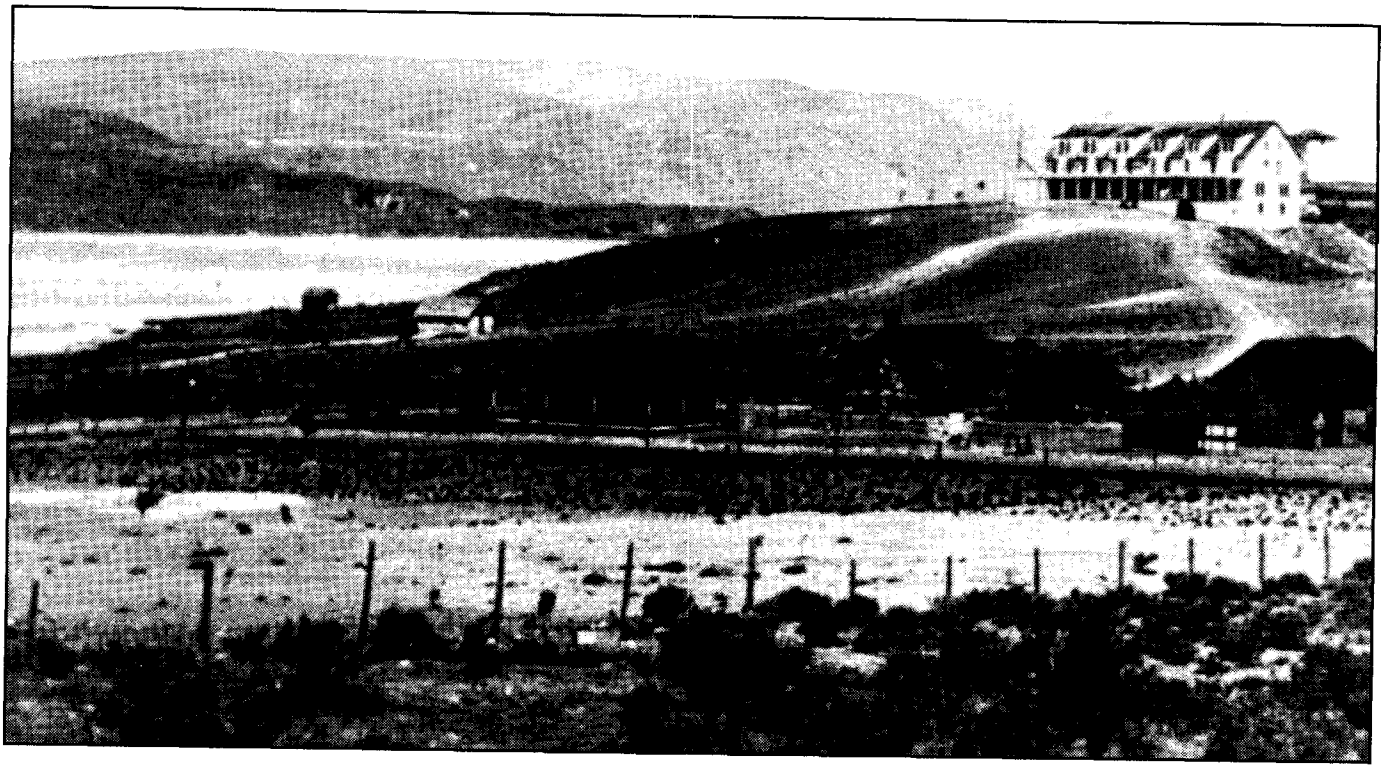

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Soap Lake in the 1920s. The Siloam Hotel is the white building on the hill.

people rebuilt it, the cowboys destroyed it again. That happened several times before the cowboys decided to move the trail. No sources relate why the cowboys changed their minds or whether any were arrested for vandalism.

The town also attracted the area's only con artist, E. Paul Janes. From 1907 to 1915, Janes operated real estate and insurance offices in Soap Lake, Ephrata, and Seattle. Janes or one of his colleagues would meet Easterners unfamiliar with the area at local railroad depots in the surrounding area and show them a prime piece of farmland near Soap Lake. Then he would sell them the property at prices ranging from $250 to $1,500. When the buyers would try to settle there, they would learn that they actually had bought an arid, non-productive rocky parcel a short distance away.

Janes also sold stock in several business ventures that never materialized, such as making a vapor bath cabinet designed for using Soap Lake water and manufacturing salts and other products made from the lake's water. Between 1911 and 1916 dissatisfied investors sued him six times in Grant County, but all the cases were settled out of court. His exploits ended when he traveled to New York City to buy some machinery for his salts manufacturing plant and one of his associates in Soap Lake sent him an urgent telegram. He suddenly took a vacation in Europe and never returned.

Swimming in the lake without bathing suits caused an uproar with the prominent townsfolk, so local newspapers reminded swimmers to dress appropriately

Soap Lake's popularity as a health resort declined in the 1920s after fire destroyed the four hotels. The Great Depression and a drought in 1933 caused many farmers to declare bankruptcy and more businesses to close or leave. Finally World War II intervened in any plans to rebuild.

Today, however, Soap Lake is once again attracting people seeking cures for their ailments. Most of the local hotels pump water from the lake into guests' bathrooms and recommend soaking in it to feel rejuvenated. It is not unusual to see people either swimming in the lake or taking mud baths along the shoreline. Gone are the cowboys and the Indians, but memories of them live on in local museums and the sections of the cattle trail still visible from State Highway 17 north of town.

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BOOKMART

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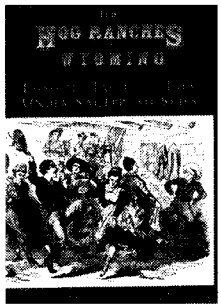
516—TREASURE OF THE SANGRE DE CRISTOS: TALES AND TRADITIONS OF THE SPANISH SOUTHWEST. *By Arthur L. Campa; foreword by J. Manuel Espinosa.* This collection includes stories of silver locked away in outlaw hoards, lost mines stacked with bars of gold, and fabulous Jesuit treasures buried when that order was expelled from New Spain. Not all of these folk treausres are of mineral wealth, however. There are also the legends of the Hermit of Las Vegas and of the lovelorn nun. 223p. University of Oklahoma Press. **Paper, $12.95**



595—THE HOG RANCHES OF WYOMING: LIQUOR, LUST & LIES UNDER SAGEBRUSH SKIES. *By Larry K. Brown.* Frontier "hog ranches" were part saloon, part dance hall, and part brothel. These rip-roaring establishments usually sprang up around forts to provide diversion for the troops, although cowboys and locals were willing to pull up a stool at the bar as well. Brown has gathered "hog ranch" stories from Mother Featherleg's place to the Nine Mile Ranch. 128p. High Plains Press
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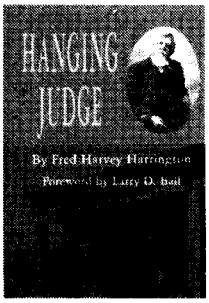

602—HANGING JUDGE. *By Fred Harvey Harrington.* Long out of print, Harrington's book focuses on Isaac Parker, the stern Indian Territory judge who tried and sentenced to death more murderers than any other judge in U.S. history. Although he sent 79 convicted felons to the gallows, he also passed sentences on thousands of other criminals, bringing order to a lawless frontier. This edition includes a foreword by Larry Ball. "Scholarly and well-written"—American Historical Review. 224p. University of Oklahoma Press.
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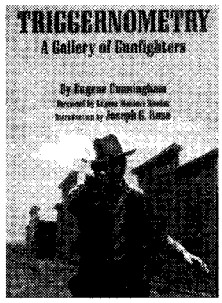

603—TRIGGERNOMETRY: A GALLERY OF GUNFIGHTERS. *By Eugene Cunningham; intro by Joseph G. Rosa.* First published in 1941, Cunningham's long popular volume features biographies of nearly a score of the Old West's most notable gunfighters, including Hardin, the Kid, Hickok, Cassidy, and Horn. A Westerner himself, Cunningham knew firsthand several of the Texas gunfighters profiled in his book. This new edition includes and extensive and updated bibliography by Rosa. 446p. University of Oklahoma Press.
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300—ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FRONTIER BIOGRAPHY, VOLUME I: A-F. *By Dan Thrapp.* First of three volumes that comprise a wealth of information about persons who lived on the American frontier. Profiles approximately 4,500 frontier figures. University of Nebraska Press.

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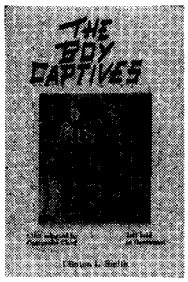
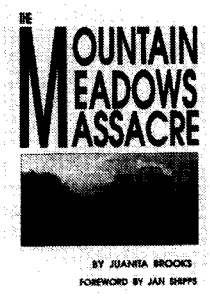


465—THE BOY CAPTIVES: BEING THE TRUE STORY OF THE EXPERIENCES AND HARDSHIPS OF CLINTON L. SMITH AND JEFF D. SMITH. *By Clinton L. Smith and J. Marvin Hunter.* Originally published in 1927 by Hunter, publisher of *Frontier Times*, this account records the story of two young men who claim to be the only known brothers to survive Indian captivity. Captives of Comanches and Apaches, the Smiths offer a look at Indian life and customs. Copies of the original book are rare. 219p. Anchor Publishing Company.
Paper, $10.00



466—THE MOUNTAIN MEADOWS MASSACRE. *By Juanita Brooks.* This book remains the definitive study of the attack on an emigrant wagon train in southern Utah by Indians and Mormons. One of the worst atrocities in the history of the westward movement, the incident has generated controversy since its occurence in 1857. "Completely objective"—*Journal of the West.* 326p. University of Oklahoma Press.
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552—THE CATTLE TOWNS. *By Robert R. Dykstra.* Dykstra "tells it as it really was" in Wichita, Abilene, Ellsworth, Dodge City, and Caldwell during the two decades following the Civil War when entrepreneurs endeavored to capture the Texas cattle trade and use it as the economic base for building another Chicago or St. Louis on the edge of the Great Plains. First published in 1968, Dykstra's book ranks as the definitive history of the western cattle communities. "Readable and persuasive"—*American Historical Review.* 412p. University of Nebraska Press.
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564—THE XIT RANCH OF TEXAS AND THE EARLY YEARS OF THE LLANO ESTACADO. *By J. Evetts Haley.* Initially published in 1929, the first edition of Haley's history of the greatest of American ranches was withdrawn from sale. It was reissued in 1953 and has become a classic of free range ranching history. Haley relates the ups and downs of the great Texas ranch—of the solution of its water and cattle-thieving problems; of its changing personnel; of ranch life; of improving the XIT cattle; of its eventual break-up. 258p. University of Oklahoma Press.
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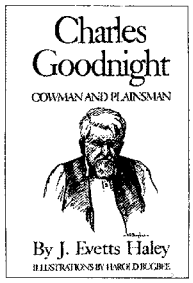

489—CHARLES GOODNIGHT: COWMAN AND PLAINSMAN. *By J. Evetts Haley.* A veteran of the Texas plains by the age of thirteen, Goodnight launched into the cattle business at twenty, guiding the Texas Rangers at twenty-four, blazing cattle trails nearly two thousand miles beyond the frontier at forty, and at forty-five dominating nearly two million acres of range country in the interests of order. Even at the age of ninety he was an international authority on the range industry. Haley provides a fully readable and important biography, vividly told, thrilling, and completely authentic. 485p. University of Oklahoma Press.

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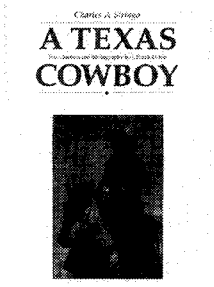

551—A TEXAS COWBOY; OR FIFTEEN YEARS ON THE HURRICANE DECK OF A SPANISH PONY. *By Charles A. Siringo; intro. & biblio. by J. Frank Dobie.* Siringo punched cattle for Shanghai Pierce, rode the Chisholm Trail, knew Tascosa, once roped a buffalo, and joined in the chase for Billy the Kid. His chronicle of his years as a itchy-footed boy, cowhand, range detective, and adventurer was originally published in 1885. This edition reprints the 1886 Addenda. 216p. University of Nebraska Press.

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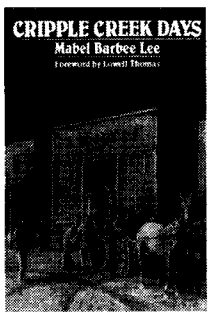

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532—SOILED DOVES: PROSTITUTION IN THE EARLY WEST. *By Anne Seagraves. Soiled Doves* tells of the grey world of prostitution and the women who participated in the oldest profession. Colorful, if not socially acceptable, these women of easy virtue were a definite part of the early West. Illustrated with many rare photos, this book provides a touching insight into the lives of the ladies of the night. 173p. Wesanne Publications.

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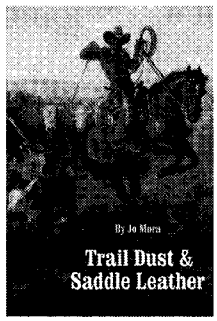

567—TRAIL DUST AND SADDLE LEATHER. *By Jo Mora.* Born in Uruguay in 1876, Mora worked with and observed cowboys and vaqueros from Canada to South America for more than half a century. In *Trail Dust and Saddle Leather,* he presents in authentic lingo and detailed drawings the real-life cowboy's daily chores and chow, clothing and equipment, and ways with critters and steeds. First published in 1946. "Superbly illustrated...exceptionally fine book"—*Library Journal.* 246p. University of Nebraska Press.

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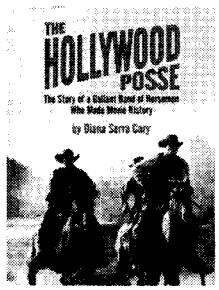

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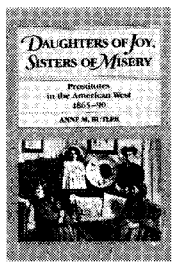

001—DAUGHTERS OF JOY, SISTERS OF MISERY: PROSTITUTION IN THE AMERICAN WEST, 1865-90. *By Anne M. Butler.* "Frail sisters," "fallen angels," "soiled doves"—whatever they were called, these women lived lives of nearly anonymous destitution. Butler's account of their lives bears scant resemblance to popular depictions in film and fiction. It reveals instead an existence on the brink of despair. 179p. University of Illinois Press.

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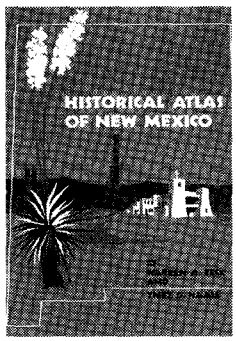

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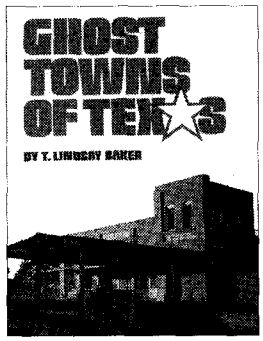

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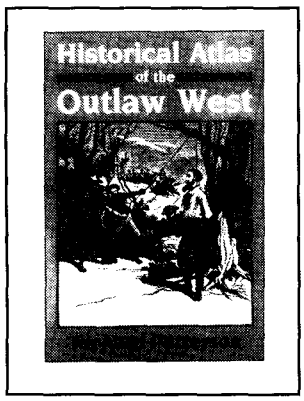

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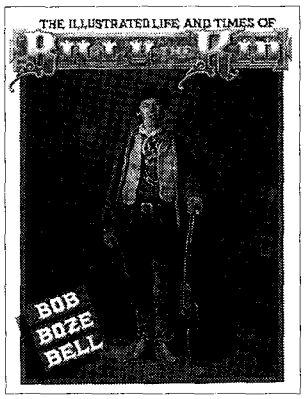

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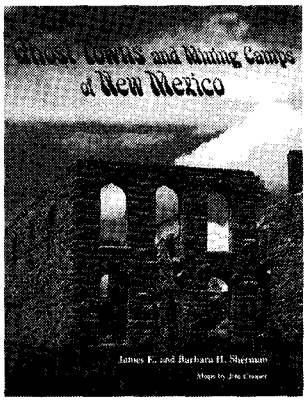

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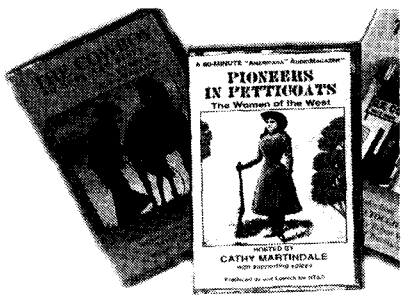

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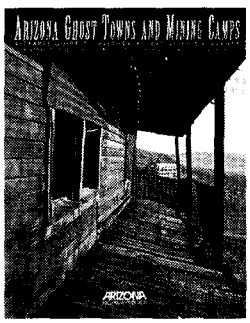

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Calamity Jane

May 1, 1852: Martha Cannary is born (according to Calamity Jane's own account) in Princeton, Missouri, the daughter of Robert and Charlotte Cannary. The circumstances and date of her birth are as enigmatic as her whole life. Little is known about her family origins, her parents, her siblings—historians even question the date and place of her birth. Calamity Jane's account tends to exaggerate and distort the major events of her life, yet remains one of the sole sources of information about this notorious woman.

1864: Apparently the eldest of three daughters, Martha is living in Virginia City, Nevada. By early adolescence Martha must strike out on her own, making a living anyway she can. According to her memoir her mother and father were both dead by 1867.

1868: At the age of fourteen Martha works as a prostitute and camp follower, working the field at Fort Bridger and Fred Steele, Wyoming. From 1869 to 1870 she moves on to work construction gangs building the Union Pacific Railroad in Wyoming.

1873: Claiming to have participated in the Northern Plains Indian fighting campaigns of the period, Martha Cannary becomes "Calamity Jane" in an Indian fight in which several soldiers are killed, near Goose Creek (now Sheridan, Wyoming). A Captain Egan, a colorful figure himself, supposedly recognized her bravado by saying, "I name you Calamity Jane, the heroine of the plains." The only connection her biographer could find linking Calamity Jane to a Captain Egan was that Martha Cannary was a laundress who may have cleaned the officer's clothes. Most likely, Martha Cannary acquired her now famous handle due to her appearance, "a plain Jane," or to her camp follower activities, "a Jane about town." Whatever the case, by this time she is well known for spinning a yarn, wearing men's clothes, and riotous living.

May 24, 1875: The United States government commissions Walter P. Jenney to take an expedition into the Black Hills to evaluate the gold bearing possibilities of the region. Some scant evidence suggests that Calamity Jane may have served as a soldier or camp follower during the expedition. A number of stories recount her daily expulsion from the exploration party by commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel R.I. Dodge. Each time she managed to rejoin the expedition disguised in men's clothes.

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LEGENDS

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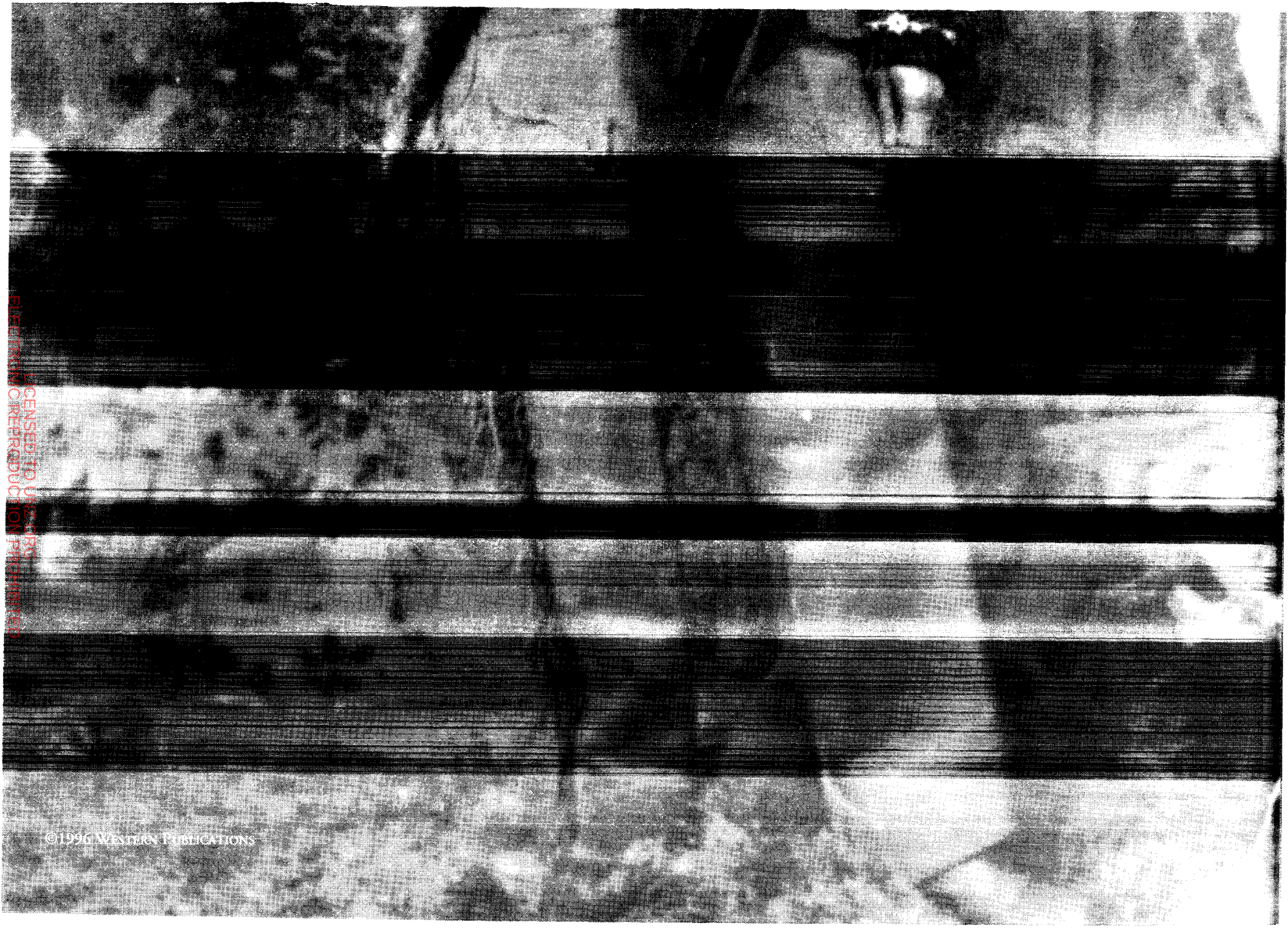

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WHAT TO READ:

Calamity Jane, by Roberta Beed Sollid, (Montana Historical Society Press, $14.95 paper bound).
Calamity Jane and the Lady Wildcats, by Aikman (University of Nebraska Press, $12.95 paper bound).

Articles possibly available at your local library:

"Who was Calamity Jane? A Speculation," in *Figures in a Western Landscape: Men and Women of the Northern Rockies* (Johns Hopkins University Press).
"Calamity Jane: The Life and Legend," by James D. McLaird, *South Dakota History*, Spring 1994 (South Dakota Historical Society).

1878: During a smallpox epidemic in Deadwood, Dakota Territory, Calamity Jane wins the sobriquet as the "Black Hills Florence Nightingale" caring for miners confined to the settlement pesthouse. Stories also circulate of her nursing men back to health injured in fights.

1879-1880s: Among other life-supporting activities Calamity Jane works as, a Bull Whacker, working with freight trains out of Pierre and Rapid City, South Dakota.

1896, 1901: In an attempt to win some fortune off her name and to sell her brief autobiography, Calamity Jane performs at a dime show sponsored by the Kohl and Middleton Palace Museum in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 1901 she travels to Buffalo, New York, to perform in the Pan-American Exposition. Her increasingly destructive drinking habits probably prevents her from enjoying much success on these tours. In fact on her way back from Buffalo, "Buffalo Bill" has to give Calamity her fare home to Wyoming.

August 1, 1903: Dissolute and impoverished, aged well beyond her fifty-three years by a wild, alcoholic, and profligate life, Calamity Jane dies from "inflammation of the bowels." Deadwood's old pioneers honors her deathbed request to be buried next to her "beloved" Wild Bill Hickok—whom she claimed to have married before his death in 1876. Clothed in an uncharacteristic white dress, she is buried in a Mount Moriah Cemetery plot next to the famous plainsman's tomb.

WHERE TO GO:

Wyoming Territorial Park, Laramie, Wyoming. The Territorial Park, a theme park built around the restored Wyoming Territorial Prison, features a live re-enactor, the great- grandniece of Calamity Jane herself. Call (800) 845-2287 for information.

Adams Memorial Museum, Deadwood, South Dakota. The museum houses relics relating to Calamity Jane, Wild Bill Hickok and other frontier notables. Call (605) 578-1714 for information about hours and admission fees.

Mount Moriah Cemetery, Deadwood, South Dakota. Western trekkers can visit the final resting place of Calamity Jane, among other famous frontier figures such as Wild Bill Hickok and Preacher Smith.

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Don't Fence Me In...

Pharmacy Museum Just What the Doctor Ordered

By Beatrice Levin

Not everything is up-to-date in Guthrie, Oklahoma. The townsfolk are celebrating a backward look, excited about a dose of state history where the Oklahoma Pharmacy Museum welcomes tourists to Guthrie's historic Gaffney building.

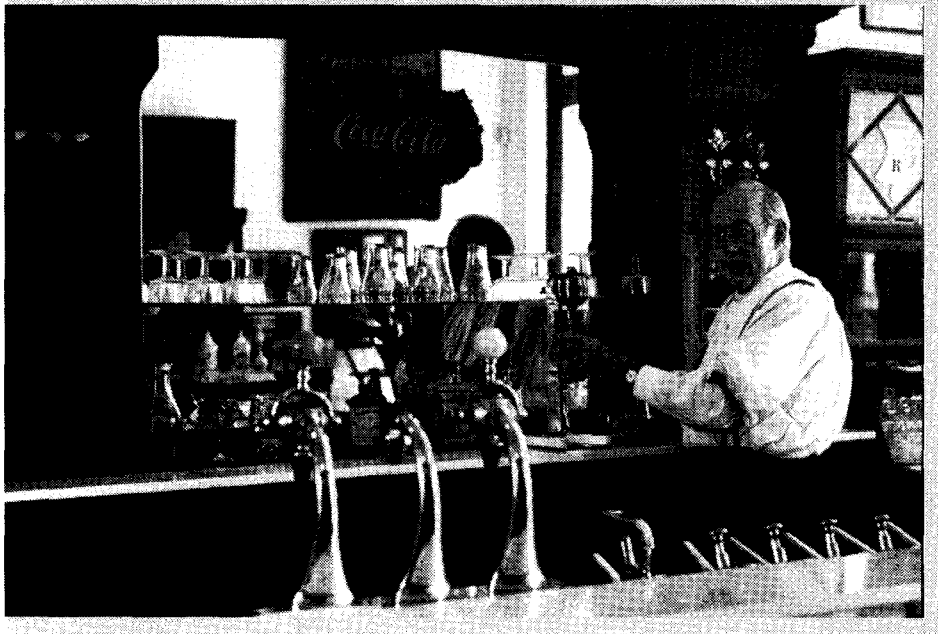
Some years ago, a traveling exhibit including photos of old drugstores prompted visions of creating a permanent museum. A leap of the imagination encouraged dedicated pharmacists to bring this dream to reality.

Great attention was focused on Guthrie in 1889 when Oklahoma's "unassigned land" was opened for settlement by a Land Run. Prospective settlers lined up at the border at high noon. At the sound of a gun they stampeded into the territory to compete in finding and claiming plots of land.

Among the men and women who responded to the gunfire and crossed into Indian Territory that April day, some on foot, some in mule-drawn carriages, and some on horseback, were professionals such as doctors and druggists. Like doctors, carpenters, and tailors, the druggists brought with them the tools of their trade.

Guthrie, the largest urban historic district on the National Register has 400 city blocks and over 2000 historic structures. Members of the Oklahoma Pharmaceutical Association during the past fifteen years have been collecting a storehouse of drugs and paraphernalia found in Oklahoma's early drugstores. In wooden drugstore fixtures and antique wall cabinets, artifacts and memorabilia reflect the history of Oklahoma pharmacy.

In the museum, a marble soda fountain and small round tables with wire-backed chairs recall the time when people came to a drugstore for a cold treat, a shake, a Coca-Cola, a Dr. Pepper, a concoc-



Oklahoma Pharmacy Heritage Foundation

The Oklahoma Pharmacy Museum pays tribute to early pharmacists by posting licenses from three different Oklahoma pharmacy licensing boards.

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Don't Fence Me In...

Oklahoma Pharmacy Heritage Foundation

Small round tables and wire backed chairs recall a time when courting couples sat in a drugstore to sip a cold treat, a shake, a Dr. Pepper, or a root beer.

tion called a Green River, or the Okie favorite, a root beer. Old-time ice cream dippers, long spoons, and sundae holders and a syrup pump with handles labeled for cherry, lemon, strawberry, pineapple, vanilla, and root beer are part of the ambiance of a working drugstore. Shelves along the walls of the museum are lined with old patent medicine bottles and other items pertaining to doctoring such as sutures, mustard plasters, and bandages. A page from a 1904 Pond Creek, Oklahoma, pharmacist's poison register is open to view. At that time, anyone buying sixty grains (equal to about twelve aspirin-sized tablets) had to record why they wanted poison substances. The faded page, listing twenty-nine names, included a dozen customers who purchased strychnine to kill rats, gophers, and skunks. Three customers bought arsenic for the same reason. One customer bought morphine as a "habit medicinal." Six bought cocaine as "habit" or "medical." Another customer needed laudanum for a sore foot. Two bought laudanum, called "tincture of opium," and one listed "diarrhea and habit" as a reason. With the passage of the Harrison Act in 1914, such narcotics came under federal control.

Pioneer pharmacists F.B. Lillie and C.P. Wickmiller helped organize the Oklahoma Pharmaceutical Association, and both served as president, Wickmiller in 1895 and Lillie in 1896. The museum pays tribute to such early druggists by posting licenses from three different Oklahoma pharmacy licensing boards. Oklahoma may be the only state that has had three boards, the Indian Territory Board of Pharmacy, the Oklahoma Territory Board of Pharmacy, and the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy.

As soon as the idea of a museum was tossed around, druggists began donating thousands of prescription labels, old packages of pills, and Oklahoma-manufactured patent medicines. Before 1950, pharma-

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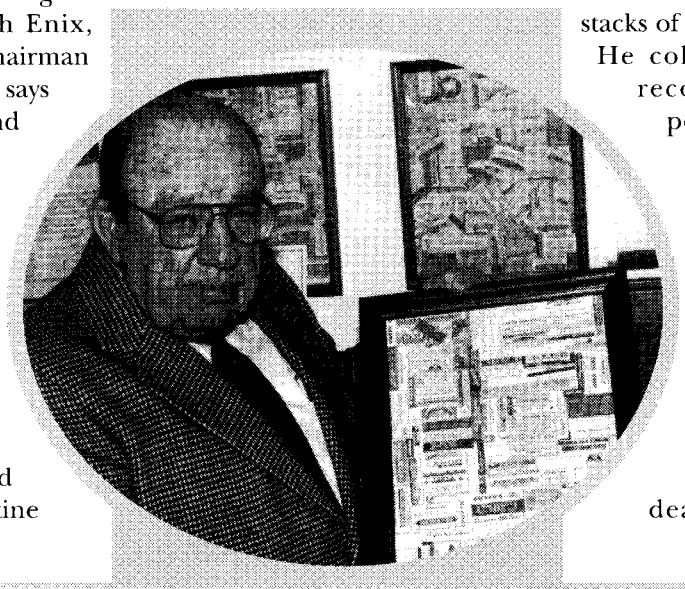
cists prepared sixty percent of doctors' prescriptions. With the passage of time, however, most medicines became prepackaged. Retired pharmacist Ralph Enix, eighty-two, who serves as chairman of the museum committee, says pharmacists no longer spend time mixing medicines, but now are more likely to advise and counsel patients and physicians concerning drugs.

Enix recalls that as a child he would go with his mother to a drugstore for fifteen cents' worth of turpentine or ten cents' worth of powdered sulfur for "cures." Turpentine and kerosene were common medicines supposed to be good for "your innerds."

Enix owned two of the oldest drugstores in Oklahoma for over forty years in Kingfisher. He is dedicated to preserving some of the history of pharmaceuticals. Much of the work has been done by volunteers who set fixtures in place, ordered electrical supplies, and arranged displays. Surprisingly, one of those who contributed most significantly to the museum was not a pharmacist at all, but a Tulsa mathematician and computer expert who became interested in collecting pharmaceutical stamps, revenue stamps that were required on patent medicines.

The late Eugene "Spike" Usdin was an eccentric hobbyist who collected oddities like newspaper clippings showing "barbershop quartets" with five singers. His personal collections of pharmaceuticals grew like Topsy. His enthusiastic obsession led him to ask pharmacists wherever he went if they had anything to give away. In small towns of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri, or wherever the family drove for vacation, Spike would stop for a Coke and ask for anything the druggist no longer wanted. He often was handed a large, broken down cardboard box full of old bottles, pills, and other paraphernalia. Spike would rummage through the contents and take some of them or, occasionally, the entire offering.



Ralph Enix, a retired Oklahoma pharmacist, led the way in establishing the Oklahoma Drugstore Museum in Guthrie.He holds a framed assortment of old drug labels. On the wall in the background are others, including labels from Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory drugstores, labels for toothache drops, bedbug powder, baking soda, laudanum, paregoric, and many other concoctions. Most telephone numbers on the labels are only one or two digits.

Where Rexall had renovated and updated a drugstore, Spike might be told everything had been thrown out. Then he would head for the dump and go through stacks of trash to find his treasures.

He collected pharmaceutical records, old drug books, posters, signs, even physicians' desk references of the fifties. In his crowded home office, he put up drugstore posters and displayed an abundance of old bottles and a needlepoint sign reading "pharmacist" with a mortar and pestle.

After Usdin's untimely death at age sixty-two, his widow, Dorothy, became involved in helping outfit the pharmacy museum. Other help came from pharmacy students who cleaned and stored inventory items. Volunteers for the pharmacy museum have bought a 1910 wooden wall telephone, wall cabinets, a wooden countertop, a case for hair nets, an antique tobacco case, and upright drugstore lemon squeezer.

The Gaffney Building, originally constructed in 1890 in the heart of Guthrie's restored Victorian downtown, retains the authentic original architecture. The Gaffney Building is at 212 Oklahoma Street, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73154.

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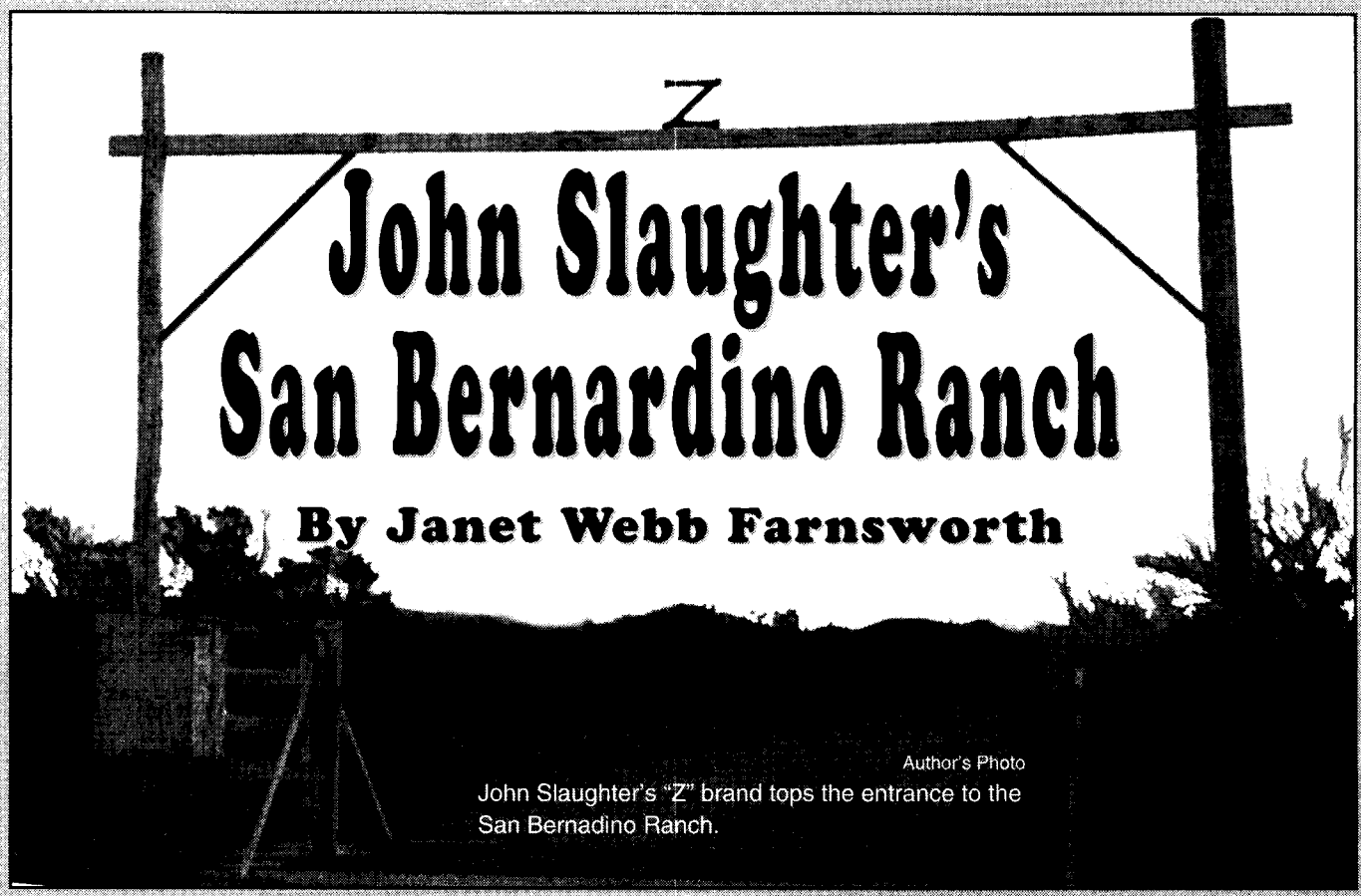

John Slaughter's San Bernardino Ranch

By Janet Webb Farnsworth

Author's Photo

John Slaughter's "Z" brand tops the entrance to the San Bernadino Ranch.

John Horton Slaughter, famous early Arizona lawman, left a legacy worthy of his legend. His San Bernardino Ranch along the Arizona-Mexico border, gives visitors a glimpse of life on an 1890s cattle ranch. A self-guided tour through the house and many outbuildings, plus a walk under the immense cottonwoods beside the pond and up to the remains of an army camp provide an intriguing look at territorial ranch life.

While waiting in New Mexico for a herd of cattle, the thirty-seven year-old Slaughter, a widower with two small children to raise, fell in love with eighteen-year-old Cora Viola Howell. Viola's mother objected to the wedding. She believed the age difference between the couple, their brief courtship, and John's children would bring nothing but grief to her daughter.

Amazon Howell, Viola's father, however, heartily approved of the marriage. He joined his herd of cattle with Slaughter's and headed to southern Arizona Territory. Howell's character judgment proved correct. Slaughter became one of Arizona's leading citizens and his marriage to Viola lasted over forty years.

In 1884, John and Viola learned the old Mexican San Bernardino Land Grant was for sale and decided to purchase it sight unseen. Slaughter negotiated a ninety-nine-year lease on approximately 65,000 acres at $1.25 per acre. One-third of the land lay in Arizona, the rest over the border in Mexico.

Years later Viola remembered her first sight of the San Bernardino Ranch. "...the valley stretching far out before us down into Mexico, rimmed and bounded by mountains all around...the thrill of knowing it was all ours, [that] our future lay within it. It

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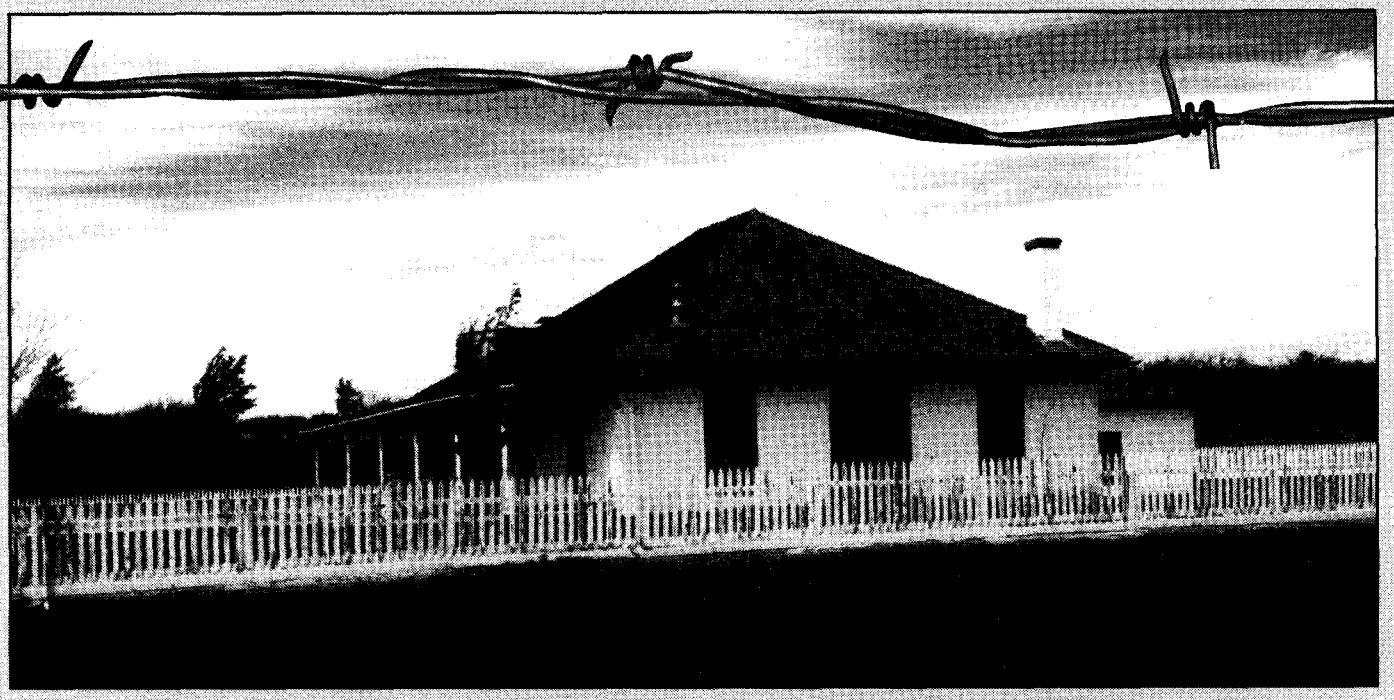

Author's Photo

With its plentiful water supply John Slaughter's San Bernardino ranch house was an oasis in the Sonoran Desert.

was beautiful."

In the Sonoran desert, the San Bernardino Ranch seemed a mirage. Waist and shoulder high grass covered the long valley, ten natural springs and intermittently flowing streams provided water to the oasis. The Slaughters knew they had found their home.

Viola remained in Tombstone while the children attended school. John had just started developing his ranch, however, when his dream was put on hold. In the late 1880s, Cochise County was a Mecca for outlaws. Tired of crime, the citizens convinced John to run for county sheriff. Their choice was a wise one, since John was uniquely suited to the job.

Although John Horton Slaughter stood only five-feet, six-inches tall, he commanded the respect of a Goliath. He had a thick neck and broad shoulders, black hair, beard, and mustache, but his eyes were his most memorable feature. Jet black and penetrating, they were characterized as the kind of eyes that "could make a man's back crawl."

Slaughter's belief that he would die of old age, not gunplay made him fearless. Once when he entered a saloon in Tombstone, a man drew a gun on him without warning. Quickly, Slaughter reached out, grabbed the gun from the surprised outlaw, and marched him off to jail.

Slaughter never admitted the number of men he killed, but legend counts at least twenty. He had a habit of starting his sentences with "I say, I say," and when he told outlaws gently and quietly, "I say, I say, I want you to lay off," they knew it was time to move on.

For four years, Slaughter and his deputies conducted a ruthless campaign to rid Cochise County of outlaws. Finally, Viola announced, "I do not think I could stand another term." So John retired as sheriff in 1891 and returned to his beloved ranch.

Work was plentiful at the San Bernardino Ranch. A violent earthquake in 1887 leveled all the adobe buildings; then cattle prices plummeted and a drought hit. In 1892, Viola announced she was giving up the house in Tombstone and moving the family to the ranch. John objected, but Viola told him, "Yes, Mr. Slaughter, we are. We'll all go out there and put our shoulders to the wheel. We can't give up now and I can help...just you give me a plain house with wide board floors, muslin ceilings and board finishes around the adobes. That's all I

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Don't Fence Me In...

Western Publications

Arizona lawman, Texas John Slaughter.

want. But I'm coming."

Viola had her way and the San Bernardino Ranch prospered. Eventually, it grew to include a sprawling ranch house, pond, schoolhouse, store, granary, and all the various buildings necessary to run a large ranch.

Viola never had children, but she raised John's two children as her own. In addition, the family befriended over a dozen other children regardless of their color. In 1896, four youngsters lived with the Slaughters: Mexican, African-American, Anglo, and Apache.

One child, Apache May, especially tugged at John Slaughter's heart. In 1896, John rode with a group of American soldiers on a reprisal raid against the Apaches. After routing the Indians, the soldiers prepared to burn the wickiups. As John entered one of the brush shelters, he poked a pile of bedding with the butt of his gun and found an Apache girl, about one year old. He took the child back to Viola who named her Apache May. Apache for her tribe and May for the month she was found.

Apache May soon became simply "Patchy" and had the run of the ranch. When she was about six years old, Patchy's dress caught fire and she died from the burns. Friends commented that some of the life went out of John after Patchy's death.

Hard work and plenty of water made the San Bernardino Ranch prosper with over 500 acres of cultivated crops, along with orchards and vineyards and vast herds of cattle. The ranch became a community of its own.

From 1902 to 1911, the Slaughter School District operated a school on the ranch, teaching the "three Rs" to between ten and twenty pupils. A small store stocked with "flour, rice, frijoles, raw coffee beans, sometimes some gaudy cottons and some black, and a little hard candy," helped meet the needs of the cowhands and their families.

Slaughter's ranch became a favorite stopover for travelers and Viola enjoyed playing hostess. Her Chinese cook, Joe Lee May, violently opposed anyone in his kitchen except Viola and her mother, but he turned out delicious meals for any and all.

The Slaughters lived at their ranch until 1921, when they moved to Douglas, Arizona. In 1922, John Slaughter died as he had predicted, at home in his own bed. Viola lived until 1941.

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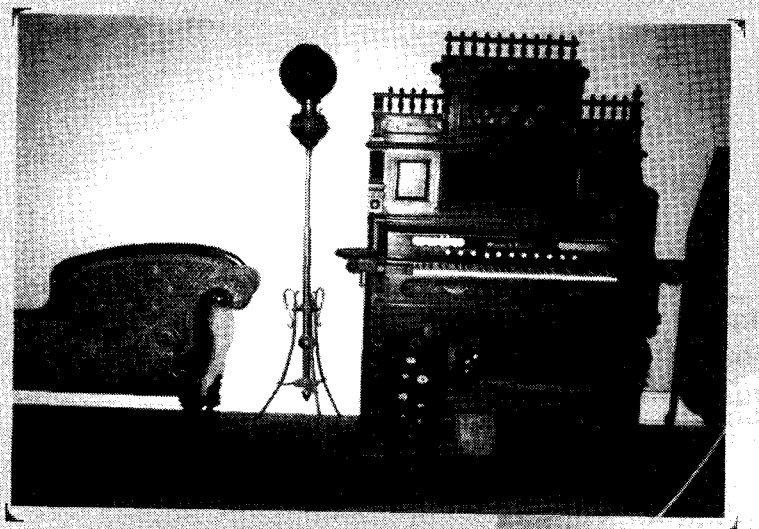

Author's Photo

Viola Slaughter's organ was among the civilized comforts at the San Bernardino Ranch.

Author's Photo

The pond and cottonwood trees provided a favorite picnic spot on the Slaughter Ranch.

THE SLAUGHTER'S SAN BERNARDINO RANCH HAS BEEN RENOVATED AND IS OPERATED BY THE JOHNSON HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF THE SOUTHWEST, A PRIVATE, NONPROFIT GROUP. TO VISIT JOHN SLAUGHTER'S SAN BERNARDINO RANCH, GO EAST ON TENTH STREET IN DOUGLAS, ARIZONA, TO THE END OF THE STREET. TURN LEFT ON AIRPORT ROAD, THEN RIGHT AT THE FIRST STOP SIGN ONTO THE GERONIMO TRAIL. FOLLOW THE GERONIMO TRAIL FOR APPROXIMATELY FOURTEEN MILES, MOST OF WHICH IS UNPAVED, BUT GOOD ROAD. TURN RIGHT AT THE JOHN SLAUGHTER RANCH SIGN. BE SURE TO CHECK VISITING HOURS WITH THE DOUGLAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (520) 364-2477, OR JOHNSON HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF THE SOUTHWEST (520) 558-2474 BEFORE MAKING THE DRIVE.

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Don't Fence Me In...

Chisholm Trail Museums

By Johnny D. Boggs

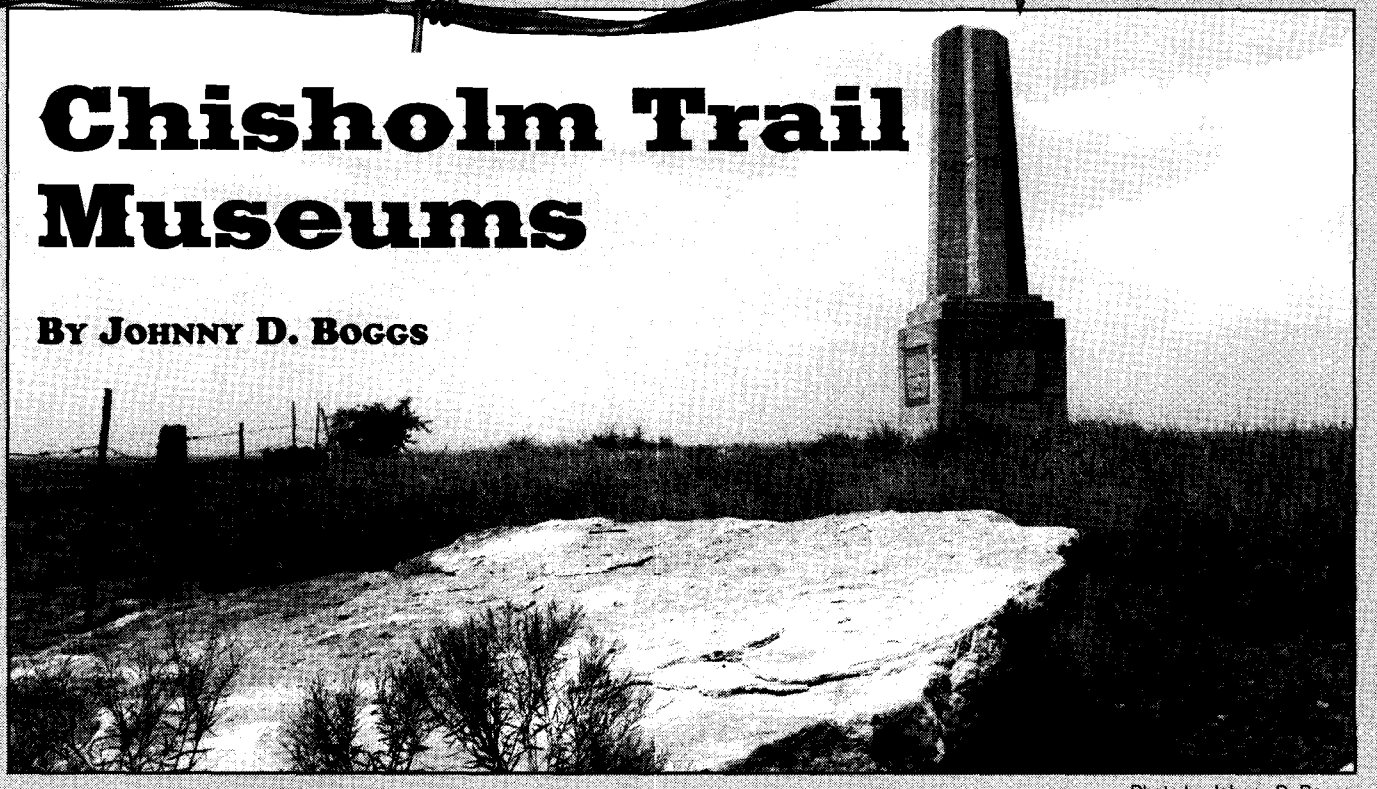

Photo by Johnny D. Boggs

The Chisholm Trail Lookout Point historical marker at Addington, Oklahoma.

The Chisholm Trail was closed to cattlemen by 1889, but the history of the route blazed by Jesse Chisholm and Black Beaver in the 1860s has been carefully preserved at two museums in Oklahoma.

Both museums are located off US Highway 81, which follows the original trail from the Red River into Kansas. Using photographs and artifacts—and friendly volunteers—the museums not only tell the story of the cattle trail but also provide insight into the region's history before it became a major cattle highway and long after the last longhorn had been trailed to the Kansas railheads.

The Chisholm Trail Historical Museum is just east of the intersection of Highways 81 and 70 in Waurika near the Texas border. Displays range from native wildlife such as the bobcat, marsh harrier, and coyote to a letter witnessed and signed by Jesse Chisholm. The Pioneer Room tells the history of the Waurika area.

The museum concentrates on the cattle trail, with displays ranging from a covered wagon to barbed wire and a chuckwagon scene. Maps, plaques, and artifacts describing the dangers cowboys faced on the long cattle drives help make the museum children-friendly.

History buffs who want another view of the Chisholm Trail can find historical markers off the main highway at Chisholm Trail Lookout Point near Addington and at the Fleetwood ghost town near Terral, just north of Red River Crossing where many herds entered the Indian Nations from Texas. At these sites, it's easy to picture how the trail must have looked to a cowboy pushing a herd of longhorns north.

In Kingfisher, northwest of Oklahoma City, the Chisholm Trail Museum is located across the street from the A.J. Seay Mansion, the restored home of Oklahoma's second territorial governor.

Cowboy tack such as saddles and chaps, the omnipresent chuckwagon and other items are prominently displayed inside the

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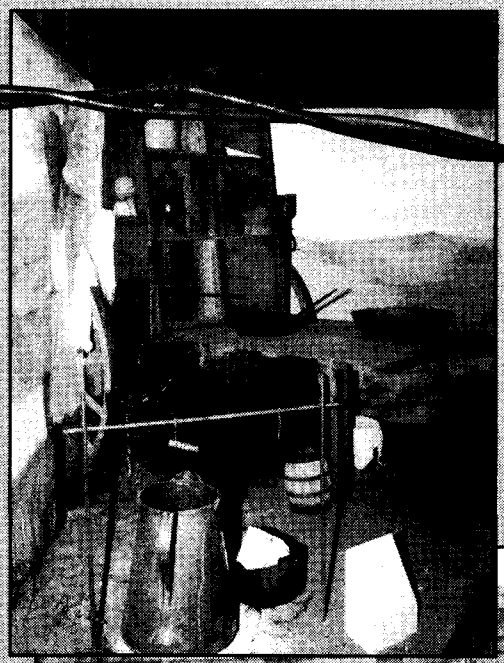
museum. And outside is a bonus. McCormick-Deering and other farm implements are showcased, as well as preserved log cabins and the frame Bank of Kingfisher, circa 1889, which was moved to the museum grounds in September 1970. Fixtures from the bank were used in the filming of the 1972 movie "Dillinger."

The museum also has Indian artifacts, including a table cover from Geronimo's family and an arrowhead collection, and, of course, artifacts and displays on Cherokee guide and trader Jesse Chisholm and the cattle trade.

Admission to both museums is free. Books and other items are for sale, and volunteers are happy to discuss Jesse Chisholm, the cattle trail, or the area with visitors. The Chisholm Trail Historical Museum in Waurika is open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Saturday, and from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, Sunday. The Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher is open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Tuesday through Saturday, and from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Sunday. Both museums are closed on holidays.

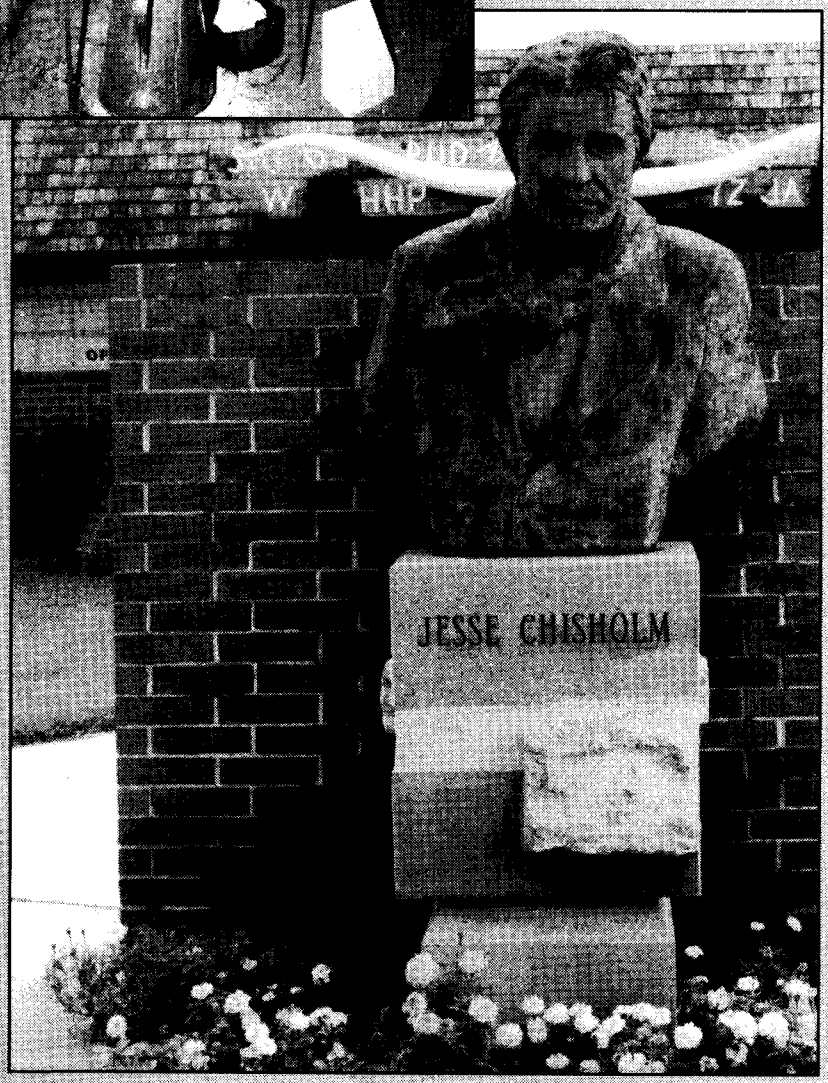
For more information, call or write Chisholm Trail Historical Museum, Route 2, Box 124, Waurika, Oklahoma 73573, (405) 228-2166; or Chisholm Trail Museum, 605 Zellers Avenue, Kingfisher, Oklahoma 73750, (405) 375-5176.



Photos by Johnny D. Boggs

(Left) A chuckwagon display at the Chisholm Trail Historical Museum at Waurika, Oklahoma.

(Below) The Chisholm Trail Museum at Kingfisher, Oklahoma.



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Don't Fence Me In...

Courtesy of the Powell County Museum and Arts Foundatio

The 1896 calendar distributed by the Garden City Bottling and Liquor Co., of Missoula, Montana, probably raised a few eye brows. It is one of many pieces of saloon memorabilia in Desert John's Saloon at the Frontier Montana Museum.

History in a Bottle

Montana Whiskey & Guns

By Paul Fugleberg

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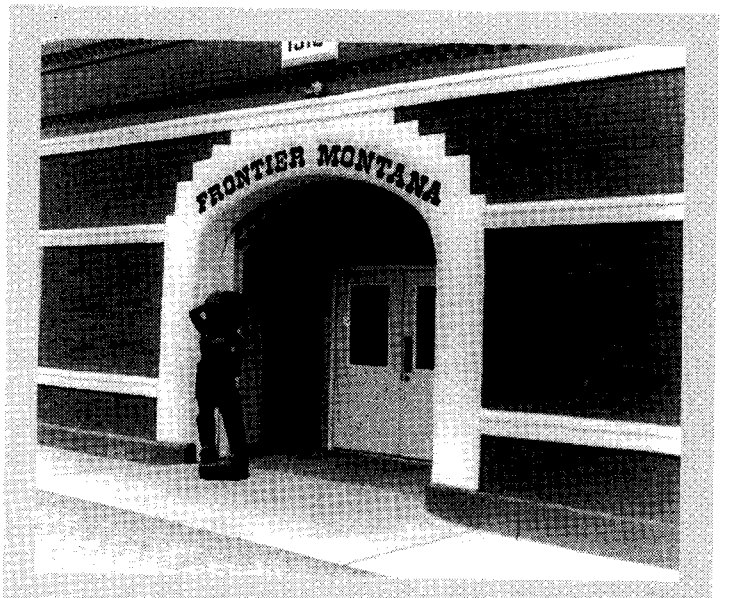
The Frontier Montana Museum is the newest addition to the Old Territorial Prison complex in Deer Lodge, Montana. Housed across the street from the old prison facility in what used to be the horse and mule barn are two unusual collections: Don and Diana Cappa's assortment of western guns and artifacts, and John and Marge Bloomquist's "Desert John's Saloon" memorabilia. You don't have to be a gun fancier or whiskey drinker to appreciate the significance of the collections or of the eras and customs they represent.

Don Cappa said, "I'm a collector of all types of artifacts that were involved with living and surviving in the 1848 to 1900 period. The early West was not an easy place to live—inadequate food and medical facilities, lots of violence. Life expectancy in the early part of the period was only thirty-four years, if you were lucky."

Frontier-era handgun and rifle displays attract the most attention in the Cappa exhibits. They range from a long-barreled, muzzle-loading Kentucky rifle to a forty-four-item Colt Peacemaker exhibit.

Cappa said that an expert frontiersman could get off four shots in two minutes with the old squirrel rifle. On the other hand, lawmen and outlaws managed to trigger rapid fire volleys with Colt single- and double-action revolvers in the 1870s and 1880s. Most popular gun of the era was the single-action Colt Army model, which required tripping the hammer before shooting. It was manufactured from 1873 to 1941.



Courtesy of the Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation

The Frontier Montana Museum on the main street of Deer Lodge, Montana, housed the old territorial prison's horse and mule barn.

The Peacemaker display shows different styles of Colts, along with those of Colt's competitors and imitators, leading up to development of the famous Peacemaker. Cappa said the manufacturer's slogan was, "God created man, but Colt made them equal." Samuel Colt came up with the idea of a revolving cylinder gun in 1836 and had Eli Whitney make the first model. Later Colt established a manufacturing plant in Hartford, Connecticut.

The famed Winchester rifle was known as the "Gun that Won the West." Of the 1866 model Winchester Golden Boy, it was said, "You could load it on Monday and shoot all week long."

"Winchester," Cappa said, "was a shirt salesman who became involved with the nearly bankrupt New Haven Arms Co. He later bought the company and put his own name on the products."

The assortment of more than 300 other handguns and rifles includes a small .41 caliber double action Colt Thunderer, the kind used by the notorious Billy the Kid, who had unusually small hands; Allen-Wheelock guns, .36 caliber for the navy and .44 caliber for the army; a Bacon .44 single-action revolver; unusual palm guns; and a J.E. Cooper "Pepperbox" with a combination

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Don't Fence Me In...

revolving cylinder and barrel. Gamblers liked the Pepperbox.

There's even a shotgun that was kept beneath the counter to dissuade would-be robbers of the Cattleman's Bank and Trust Co. in Great Falls. Gamblers' artifacts include a card press, dice cup, playing cards, match boxes, knives, a knife and fork combination, and various guns favored by gamblers, including small derringer-style models and an L-shaped "boot" gun.

Cappa said, "A cowboy's pride was his horse, his spurs, and his John B. [Stetson hat]." The museum doesn't have a horse on display, but it does have exhibits of cowboy apparel, spurs, quirts, holsters, branding irons, line shack furnishings, and an upholstered, cattle-horn chair made for a California bordello during Gold Rush days.

A set of oriental fighting knives and drums was used to settle disputes among Chinese in the gold camps. Cappa explained, "The arguing pair would fight with the knives as a third party thumped an increasingly frenzied tempo as the pace of the duel increased. Activities ceased with the demise of one of the combatants."

Courtesy of the Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation

Don Cappa holds a .45 caliber Colt single-action Peacemaker, one of the many guns in his collection at the Frontier Montana Museum.

Courtesy of the Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation

The Kessler Brewing Company of Helena, Montana, shipped its products in kegs like this in Montana's early days. Note the box at right that once contained Yukon Jack imported Canadian whiskey.

Behind the swinging doors of Desert John's Saloon is an extensive collection of whiskey manufacturer's memorabilia dating back to the California Gold Rush days. As visitors enter the "saloon" an electric eye trips a recorded message from the mustachioed barkeep, who blinks, moves his head and mouth as he reports that "this here bar came up the Missouri River on a steamboat in the early days."

Shelves are lined with bottles of all shapes and sizes and advertising gimmicks, including clocks, figurines, and promotional pieces. More than 300 pre-Prohibition distilleries and distributors are represented. Most of them are no longer in business.

Collector "Desert John" and his wife, Marge, have acquired the items over more than forty years. They unearthed many of them in and around ghost towns and mining camp dumps in days when digging was permitted. Others came from buying and swapping or as gifts from friends.

"Each item has a story behind it," Desert John said. The clock collection, for instance, has a heavy, bell-shaped clock that was presented to favorite customers by the Belle of Bourbon Distillery.

A colorful labeled bottle of Yellowstone Whiskey represented a "house brand" of sorts. The bottle would come empty and be filled with a common "back bar brand." A sign advertising the Yellowstone label proclaims "There are three pleasures in life—horses, whiskey and women."

Kentucky had the most distillers, followed by Ohio and Pennsylvania. Most are represented in Desert John's collection. A roped off island in the middle of the floor of the room behind the bar contains shipping crates with manufacturers' and distributors' names plus giant-sized promotional bot-

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tles of products—Bourbon Supreme, Sunnybrook, Old Taylor, Old Jim Tucker, Old Hermitage, Old James E. Pepper, and more. Names on boxes include Graves and Son of Boston, Old Moorman Green Label, Kentucky Senate, Old Jordan, Old Ogden, and Mt. Vernon Rye.

Advertising signs, trays, and plates include other long gone brands and distributors: Dillinger Pure Rye, Golden Link Whiskey, and Buffalo Club Rye Whiskey.

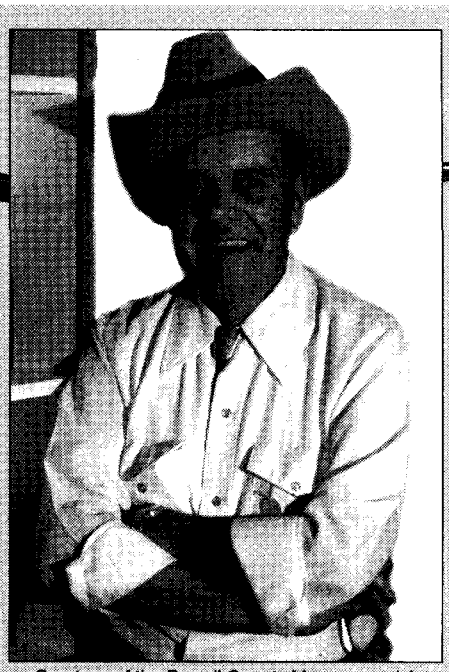
Some are elaborately illustrated. Rooney's Malt Rye features a fighting rooster in the now outlawed sport of cock fighting. Old Judge portrays a patriotic theme connected with the blowing up of the battleship *Maine* which started the Spanish-American War. The Garden City Bottling and Liquor Co. of Missoula is advertised on an 1896 calendar with a picture of five young women. A Montreal Malt Rye sign shows a picture of fishermen in a canoe with their guide. Between the fishermen is a bottle of their favorite rye.

In a separate enclosure are examples of the Prohibition era in which bootleg whiskey was made: two homemade copper stills containing what today would be considered unhealthy amounts of lead solder, and all sizes and shapes of crocks, jugs, flasks, and more.

The most valuable item in the collection is Elk Milk Whiskey, given to Desert John by a friend in Sacramento more than thirty years ago. The oldest item is a barrel-shaped bottle of Old Kentucky Reserve Whiskey distributed by Bininger & Co. in New York and dated 1849.

There are a number of German-made knick-knacks that bartenders would give to preferred customers. "Sometimes these would be filled with small samples of whiskey," Bloomquist said.

Located just off I-90, midway between Yellowstone and Glacier national parks, Deer Lodge is a natural stopover for Montana visitors. Curator Jim Haas suggests calling ahead to learn rate schedules and hours. Call (406) 846-3111.



Courtesy of the Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation

"Desert John" Bloomquist, who with his wife, Marge, compiled the elaborate collection of saloon artifacts now housed at the Frontier Montana Museum.

Deer Lodge offers quite an assortment of visitors attractions. The major one is the Old Territorial Prison complex which is operated by the Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation.

Besides the Frontier Montana Museum, the prison complex includes the 100-car Towe Ford Collection; the prison facility itself; the Montana Law Enforcement Museum; Yesterday's Playthings, a doll and toy collection; the Old Prison Players Summer Theater; the Powell County Historic Museum; an arts and crafts shop featuring prison-made items; a letterpress print shop, and the Chamber of Commerce.

About a half-mile up Main Street is the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Monument which graphically recalls Montana's colorful, short-lived "free grass" period when cattle kings grazed their herds in virtual oceans of protein-rich bunch grass which waved in the winds in valleys and plains untouched by fences, plows, highways, cities, towns, or other such manmade blemishes.

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Don't Fence Me In...

CALIFORNIA'S STAGECOACH INN

By Diane Kinzer Brown

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The Stagecoach Inn at Newbury Park, California, was established in 1876, to serve travelers journeying between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara. It now stands as a welcome reminder of our western past in the midst of California's ever-changing urban landscape. At various times throughout its history, the inn also operated as a post office, tea room, boys' military school, private home, restaurant, and gift shop.

In the mid-1960s, the Stagecoach Inn was threatened by the expansion of the Ventura Freeway. The Conejo Valley Historical Society mobilized to save the building from destruction, and it was relocated to a

Ventura County Museum

Replicas of an early California adobe house and beehive located on the grounds of the Inn.

Ventura County Museum

Early traveler outside the Stagecoach Inn.

Ventura County Museum

Replica of a Chumash Indian hut located on the grounds of the Inn.

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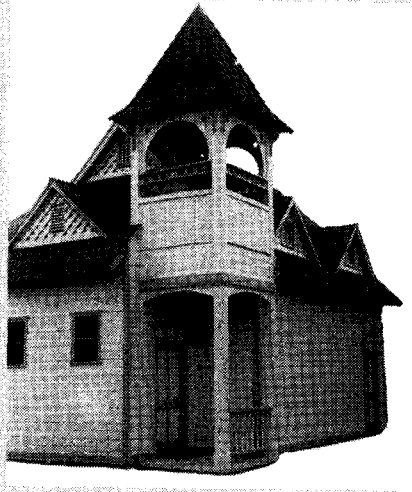
Don't Fence Me In...

The Stagecoach Inn Museum.

Ventura County Museum



Ventura County Museum

The reconstructed Timber School, a one-room schoolhouse and first school in the Conejo Valley Unified School District, located on the grounds of the Stagecoach Inn Museum.

nearby site. It was granted California Historical Landmark status in 1965.

After a fire of undetermined origin completely destroyed the building in 1970, it was thoroughly reconstructed with funds from insurance and private donations. An excellent example of Monterey-style architecture, it houses an extensive collection of Victorian furnishings, antique spinning wheels, carpentry tools, Chumash Indian artifacts, photos, and other items of local historical interest.

Reports that a ghost named Pierre haunts the Stagecoach Inn have persisted since the late 1960s. Pierre Duvon or Duval is said to have been a man in his middle thirties who was shot to death on the second floor of the hotel in 1889. The motive behind his murder remains unclear and no physical evidence confirming his life or death has ever been found.

The Stagecoach Inn Museum is open to the public from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, Wednesday through Sunday, and docent-led tours are available. Admission is $2.00 for adults and $1.00 for seniors over sixty-two; children five to twelve years are $1.00, and children under five are free. The museum is closed on Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. For further information call (805) 498-9441, or write the museum at 51 S. Ventu Park Road, Newbury Park, California 91320.

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Author's Photo
Nestled in the rolling hills of South Dakota, the Cultural Heritage Center resembles an old-timer's dugout.

Cultural Heritage Center of the South Dakota Historical Society

By Charles Overstreet

If you look southeast from the state capitol complex in Pierre, South Dakota, you'll see a large, man-made structure in the side of the rolling hills. Covered with sweetgrass, it resembles an early-day dugout. Closer examination reveals it to be the dark red marble facing of one of the most interesting museums in all the western states: the Cultural Heritage Center of the South Dakota Historical Society.

The SDHS, established by the state legislature in 1901, is charged with the responsibility of collecting, preserving, and protecting South Dakota's history and heritage. To commemorate the state's centennial, the state legislature committed $6.5 million to the construction of this beautiful center. The earthmounded building, completed in 1989, is reminiscent of the dwellings of pioneers and homesteaders. The 63,000-square-foot building houses the society's administrative offices, the state archives, and a gift shop, as well as the museum and its galleries.

Some of the finest examples of Lakota Sioux paraphernalia are on display here, including an authentic, full-sized Sioux tepee made with sixteen lodge poles covered by eighteen buffalo skins; precious few such tepees are still available to see, study, and enjoy. Also displayed are many immaculate beaded clothing items, necklaces and jewelry, feathered headdresses and moccasins.

Strikingly, the museum's galleries are completely dark until you enter. All lighting is controlled by motion sensors, and as you approach a display, the lights come on and slowly brighten. The tour is self-guided, and numerous graphics near each exhibit which explain the items displayed.

The museum's logotype is a Lakota coup stick carved in the likeness of a horse. The actual coup stick from which this symbol evolved is handsomely displayed in one of the galleries along with several examples of Lakota weapons. These people were some of the finest horsemen in the world; one display is devoted to their saddles, tack, and horsemanship.

One especially significant and exciting item is a simple lead tablet, beautifully lighted in a glass case atop a black pedestal—the Verendrye Plate! Reputed to be the first white men to enter the plains of what is now South Dakota was a party of French fur traders and explorers led by Louis Joseph de Varennes et de Verendrye and his brother, Francois Gaultier De Tremblay. During the brothers' explorations, their Indian guides told them of other white men in the area, but they never made contact with them. In the spring of 1743, near the present capitol of the state, they buried a lead plate claiming all the land they had explored for the king of France.

The plate remained undisturbed for 170 years until a group of children on a school picnic uncovered it on February, 16, 1913. This artifact may well be the earliest documentation of the white man's presence in this region of the United States, and as such is truly an important historical artifact. Even for those with little or no interest in the Lakota culture, the Verendrye Plate necessitates a trip to the museum.

Author's Photo
The Lakota coup stick that inspired the Cultural Heritage Center's logo.

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Don't Fence Me In...

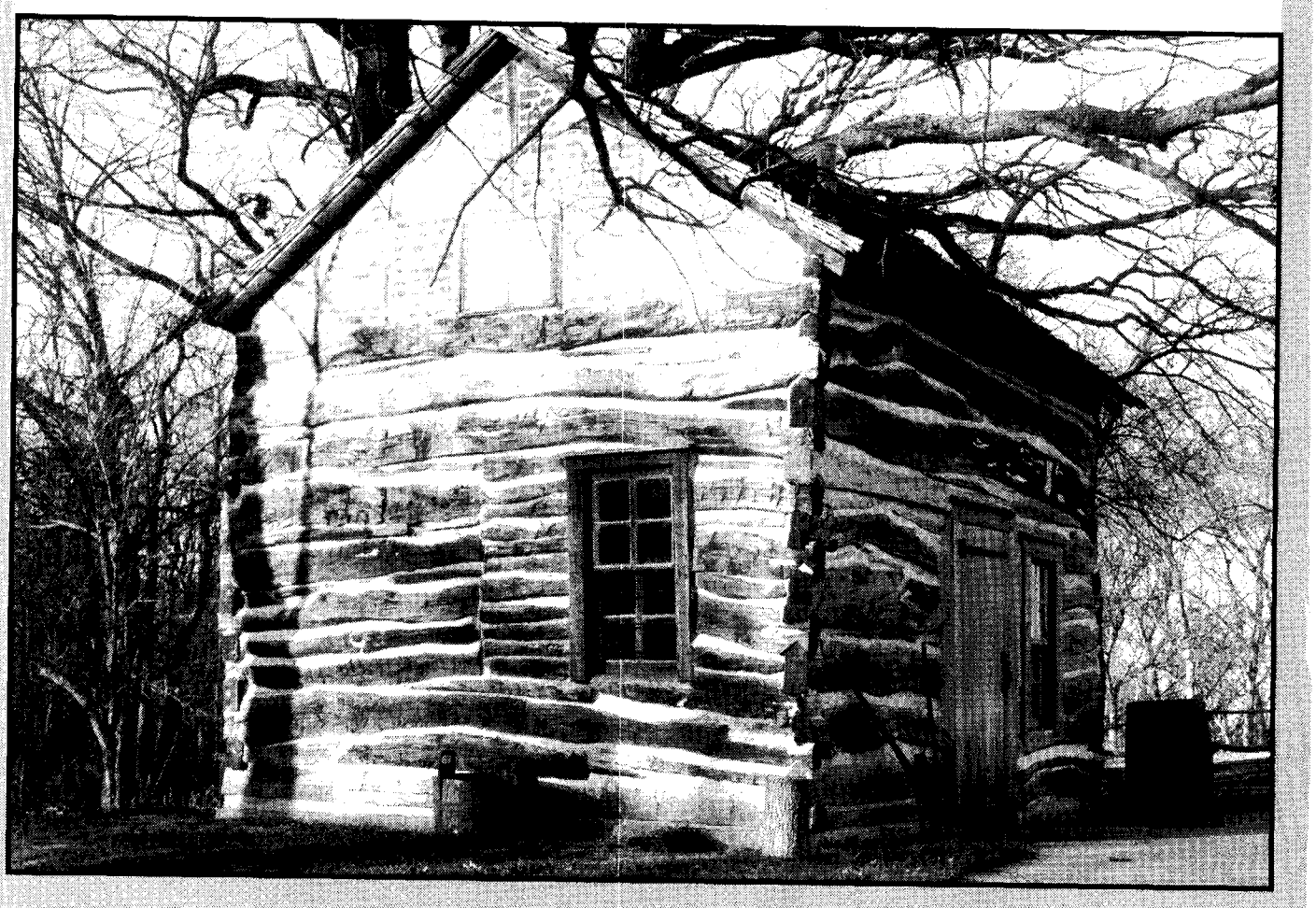
Bustin' Sod in Sou

BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

Prairie winds still make the tall grass dance in southeastern Nebraska, and Homestead National Monument pays homage to the men and women—often overlooked by historians—who cleared and settled the vast western prairie during the nineteenth century.

President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act into law, effective January 1, 1863, and Iowan Daniel Freeman wasted no time in getting his 160 acres. A Union Army scout, he talked the Brownsville, Nebraska, land agent into letting him sign up after midnight so he could return to his regiment. Thus he became the first homesteader under the act, and since 1936, the National Park Service has noted his part in the history of the American West. The old Freeman homestead, near Beatrice, Nebraska, is now Homestead National Monument.

Under the Homestead Act, United States citizens or immigrants who planned on becoming citizens could claim 160 acres of surveyed government land, improve it by building a home and growing crops, and after five years, gain title to the property—no easy



The Palmer-Epard Cabin, Homestead National Monument.

Johnny D. Boggs

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task as homesteaders took on the challenge of a forbidding land that fell far short of the propaganda put out by boosters and railroad companies. Homesteaders battled the elements, debt, an uncertain economy and, sometimes, cattlemen and Indians.

Homestead National Monument's visitor center offers a slide program about the park and a museum of frontier farm implements. Behind the center is a restored cabin, home of the Palmer and Epard families, built on a nearby homestead in 1867. The cabin is made of oak, hackberry, ash, locust, walnut, and elm, and homemade bricks. Furnished with reproduction furniture and period artifacts, the cabin faithfully restores the look of an 1880s frontier home.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of the monument is the more than two miles of hiking trails that pass through a restored portion of the tall-grass prairie. That restoration, which began in 1939, now includes big and little bluestem that reach a height of nine feet. A patient and lucky visitor can see pheasants and other wildlife, including badgers and antelope.

Johnny D. Boggs

The Palmer-Epard Cabin and the Museum and Visitor's Center, Homestead National Monument.

The trail follows a one-mile loop where the Freemans lived and worked, passes the Freeman grave site, and then winds along the hedgerow of thorny osage orange trees Freeman planted on the southern boundary of his homestead. The trail then follows the woods around Cub Creek back to the Freeman farm near the visitor center. Informative signs along the trails provide insight into the area and history of the homesteaders. About a quarter-mile west of the visitor center, the one-room Freeman School, which closed in 1967, has been restored to its 1890s appearance.

The park is open daily, except Christmas, from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM and from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM during the summer. Admission is free. Lodging or campsites are available in Beatrice and the surrounding area. For more information call (402) 223-3514 or write Homestead National Monument, RFD 3, Box 47, Beatrice Nebraska 68310.

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CUSTER'S FAVORITE SCOUT

Bloody Knife: Custer's Favorite Scout, by Ben Innis, edited by Richard Collin. (Smoky Water Press, P.O. Box 2322, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502-2322. $18.95 paper bound.)

The late Ben Innis originally published Bloody Knife in 1973, just three years before the centennial of the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Bloody Knife died at the onset of that fight, shot between the eyes, his brains splattered over Major Marcus Reno beside him. The gore so shocked Reno that he lost his nerve and effective command of his troops.

Innis is well-known as a scholar and promoter of Upper Missouri River history, and this very readable biography of Bloody Knife remains a testament to his untiring research efforts as a local historian. Editor Richard Collin has added new photographs to this edition, making this important work available to a new audience.

Innis's biography of Custer's favorite scout added the Arikara perspective to the history of the Battle of the Little Bighorn—a history previously dominated by white and Lakota views. This new Smoky Water Press edition of Ben Innis's *Bloody Knife* should find a receptive audience among a new generation of readers.—*Joe Porter, Raleigh, North Carolina.*

CUSTER'S FIRST SERGEANT, JOHN RYAN

By Sandy Barnard

Between 1862 and 1876, Ryan fought in many of the most celebrated military encounters of that era. With the 28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment of the Irish Brigade, he charged at Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and in the Wheatfield at Gettysburg, and was wounded three times on his 19th birthday, Aug. 25, 1864, at the Battle of Reams Station, Va.

After the war, Ryan enlisted in the 7th U.S. Cavalry, serving 10 years under legendary commander, Lt. Col. George A. Custer. At the Little Big Horn in June 1876, 1st Sgt. Ryan fought heroically in the valley and on the bluffs with the Reno Battalion. He later buried the Custers. After his military service ended, he spent 35 years as a Newton, Mass., police officer, retiring as captain, the No. 2 man on the force.

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Roadside History of California

Roadside History of California, by Ruth Pittman. (Mountain Press, Box 2399, Missoula, Montana 59806. $30.00 cloth bound; $18.00 paper bound.)

No one, not even Herodotus himself, backed by a team from the Encyclopedia Britannica, could tell the whole story of California in only 400–odd pages. It is just too big a subject, and not simply because California is a Texas and Alaska-sized state. Its history is complex, not *just* western but "imperial"—bearing heavily on the western edge of a continent and on its coastal position upon the Pacific Rim.

Nevertheless, Ruth Pittman has done a good job of refining the essential elements of what we might call the state's internal history and squeezing them into a cramped space. And she has rendered pretty fair and objective treatment of a past that is, to be sure, full of social and political inequalities and conflicts.

The format is the same as the other volumes in the Roadside series, employing a geographical, chronological, and topical approach. The state is broken into twelve sections to make the narrative as user–friendly as possible. The author leads us back into the past of each by moving along highways and major access roads, pointing out physical and human landmarks of the story. It remains an effective device, even for so large and complex a subject.

The book is equipped with black-and-white illustrations, simplified

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maps, an index and modest bibliography, and a preliminary chronology that might have been expanded. Errors appear to be few and far between and wonder of wonders, the accenting of Spanish personal and place names seems to have been carefully done.

The breakdown of this super-state into a dozen manageable sectors makes good sense—the Shasta-Cascade region of lava plateaus to the northeast; the Redwood Coast from Marin County to the Oregon line; the Gold Country, or Mother Lode and Northern Mines along Highway 49; Sacramento's great Central Valley and the San Joaquin River; the San Francisco Bay region; and the Central Coast of Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties. Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego have their own chapters; as do the so-called Inland Empire of Riverside and San Bernardino counties; the surprisingly huge combination of the high Mojave and lower Colorado River Deserts; and, finally, the High Sierra.—*Richard H. Dillon, Mill Valley, California.*

Seth and Mary Eastman's Dakota: Arts and Letters

Dahcotah or Life and Legends of the Sioux, by Mary Henderson Eastman. (Afton Historical Society Press, distributed by University of Washington Press, PO Box 50096, Seattle, Washington 98145-5096. $45.00 cloth bound.)

Seth Eastman: A Portfolio of North American Indians, by Sarah E. Boehme, Christian F. Feest, and Patricia Condon Johnston, (Afton Historical Society Press, distributed by University of Washington Press, PO Box 50096, Seattle, Washington 98145-5096. $75.00 cloth bound.)

The Afton Historical Society Press has produced two works of art with the republication of Mary Henderson Eastman's *Dacotah* and the first comprehensive portfolio of Seth Eastman's masterful renditions of Native American life.

Dacotah or Life and Legends of the Sioux, first published in 1849, is Mary Henderson Eastman's collection of stories and firsthand observations of Sioux customs and daily life. Her writing provides a detailed glimpse of Sioux life just as the fledgling United States began the process of extending its control over its great western territories. Eastman arrived at Fort Snelling in September 1841 at the age of twenty-three, the wife of Captain Seth Eastman, Company D, First United States Infantry.

Most of America's first anthropologists were actually amateur ethnographers who in the course of their lives established relationships with America's native peoples and simply wrote down the things they observed and the stories they were told. Though Mary Eastman's perspective was colored by preconception and a penchant to romanticize her subjects, her writing provides valuable insights into the daily life and beliefs of Minnesota's Siouian people. Like other early ethnographic work, Eastman's writings provide as much insight into American culture and perspectives as into those of her Dakota friends.

Known to the Indians as "Eastman's squaw," Mrs. Eastman, established a close relationship with the Sioux, many of whom she counted close friends. One of them was Chequered Cloud, a Sioux medicine woman and storyteller who related many of the stories and provided much of the information found in the text. This edition includes watercolor illustrations by the author's husband, Seth Eastman, and a well-written biographical essay on Mary Eastman by Professor Emerita Rena Neuman Coen of St. Cloud State University of Minnesota.

Afton Historical Society Press's magnificent portfolio of Seth Eastman's art work, issued along with his wife's book, presents over

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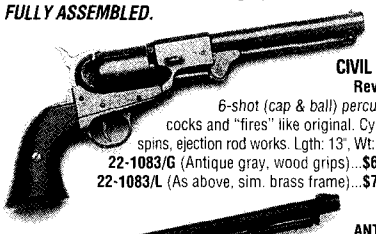

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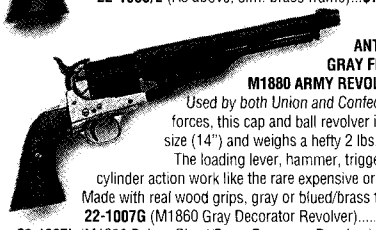

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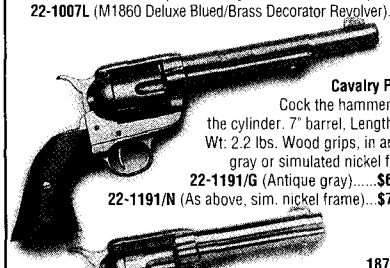

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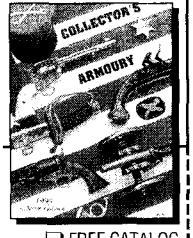

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fifty-two plates of the artist's renditions of Native American life, maps, architectural drawings, portraits, and landscapes. Additionally, the work presents an essay on Eastman as an "Officer and an Illustrator" by Sarah E. Boehme and a biographical sketch, "He Chased Indians: The Soldier Artist's Life," by Patricia Condon Johnston.

Eastman's life is as much a story of frontier history and adventure as his art work is a masterful representation of life on the Minnesota frontier in the mid-nineteenth century. The scion of a distinguished New England family (that produced Daniel Webster and George Eastman, of Eastman Kodak fame), Eastman graduated twenty-second of forty-six out of West Point's class of 1828. The young cadet majored in drawing in his preparation as a "practical draftsman," to serve as an engineer in the United States Army.

Upon graduation Eastman was assigned to the First Infantry and sent to the edge of civilization at Prairie du Chien. His sojourn along Minnesota's frontier began at Fort Crawford and soon continued at Fort Snelling. Seven years among the Indians at Fort Snelling provided Eastman with the material that inspired much of his brilliant work. He also sired a child in a relationship with Stands Like a Spirit, the daughter of a local Dakota chief.

In the course of his tour at Fort Snelling, Eastman married a proper woman of good family, Mary Henderson. They had four children while Eastman served a varied and far-flung military career. He died at the easel in August 1875. Eastman's extended assignment on the Indian frontier in large part contributed to his authoritative depiction of Dakota life.

The collection in this portfolio includes illustrations Eastman executed for Henry Rowe Schoolcraft's multi-volume *Information Regarding the History, Condition and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States* published between 1851 and 1857. Also included are sketches based on Eastman's visits to Texas, landscapes, and illustrations of Indian artifacts. Published here for the first time since the mid-nineteenth century this collection brings together the largest collection of Eastman works contained in the Hill Collection at the Hill Library in St. Paul, Minnesota. A valuable pictorial addition to any library of the history of the American West and frontier history.—*Clifford Coppersmith, Stillwater, Oklahoma.*

The Great Sioux War

"A Good Year to Die": The Story of the Great Sioux War, by Charles M. Robinson, III. (Random House, 201 East 50th Street, New York, New York 10022. $27.50 cloth bound.)

In his new book, Charles M. Robinson, III, states quite correctly that the Great Sioux War of 1876–77 is "one of the best documented conflicts of the nineteenth century." It is a fascinating story of bungling and heroism, competence and tragedy which is integral to understanding the basic story of the American West, and the people who made it what it is today.

Robinson begins with a brief history of the Lakotas and Northern Cheyennes and their relations with the government, and then reviews Federal Indian policies under President Ulysses S. Grant. He introduces us to some of the major Indian characters—Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Red Cloud—and offers vivid descriptions of the Black Hills and of the High Plains in general, showing how the weather and landscape dictated the nature and timing of the fighting. One of the book's strongest elements is Robinson's able character analyses of the principal army officers—Phil Sheridan, George Armstrong Custer, George Crook, Alfred Terry, Frederick Benteen, Marcus Reno, Ranald Mackenzie, Nelson Miles, and many others. Robinson unflinchingly shows who was heroic and able and who was not.

Robinson then describes how the lust for gold in the Black Hills led to the beginning of the Great Sioux War, which began in February 1876 when the army summarily declared

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hostilities against all non-reservation Indians on the Northern Plains. Robinson's book closely describes the early fighting, and offers an especially good description of the tragic, bungled Little Bighorn campaign; the maps on pages 168 and 169, which contrast General Terry's plan with what really happened, are particularly informative. Robinson makes good use of archaeological as well as historical accounts to describe the battle, and lays to rest many of the myths of the campaign, such as the issue of Custer's competence, the overrated cartridge-extractor failure problem of the Seventh Cavalry's 1873 Springfield carbines, and the skill and bravery shown by Reno and Benteen. Robinson's account concludes with the breakup of the victorious Indian alliance into small, mobile bands, Ranald Mackenzie's relentless attack against Dull Knife's band of Cheyennes at the "Dull Knife Fight," and Nelson Miles' winter victory over Crazy Horse and his band at Wolf Mountain on January 8, 1877, which brought an end to Sioux military power.

The book's major failing is that Robinson makes extensive use of the accounts of army officers and civilians, while virtually ignoring Indian accounts, many of which are as rich and useful as anything in the government's archives. As a result the work is not as balanced as it could have been. Robinson rationalizes this by stating that most Indian participants, worried about a government backlash, "were often careful to tailor their remarks according to what they thought the whites wanted to hear." Instead of glossing over those sources, however, Robinson should have weighed them, found the most reliable ones, and used them more extensively, rather than continually slanting his interpretation to the army's view.

The book does offer a well-constructed, flowing narrative, making it very readable, although it does tend to get bogged down in detail from time to time. It also offers a good photographic gallery of all major army and civilian participants and of some of the Indians. In summary, *A Good Year to Die* is a good overview of the Great Sioux War told pretty much from the army side. If that's what you want, go and buy it. Otherwise, it would be wise to obtain a more balanced work, such as Robert Utley's *The Indian Frontier of the American West, 1846–1890*, or his more recent *The Lance and the Shield: The Life and Times of Sitting Bull.*—*Malcolm Brown, Perry, Oklahoma.*

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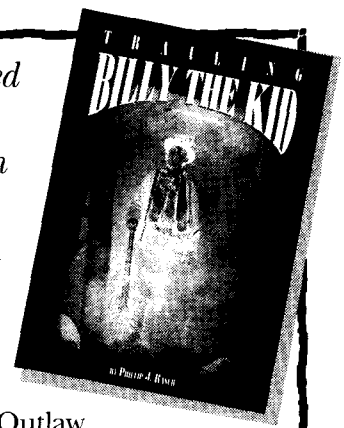

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ANOTHER NOTCH FOR WILD BILL

By CHUCK PARSONS

In an 1870 bloodbath, Wild Bill Hickok shot a pair of privates in a saloon at Fort Hays, Kansas. One of them, John Kile, died. Jim Kile, hailing from Sagle, Idaho, wants to know more about Private John Kile. Jim wonders if he's possibly related.

Kile (or Kyle) was born about 1846 in Troy, New York (some sources say Cincinnati, Ohio). He enlisted in Company G, Thirty-Seventh Infantry, in 1867, and was discharged the following year. He later joined again, deserted, then rejoined as a private only to be court-martialed and given a dishonorable discharge for drunkenness. Never one to distance himself from the military for long, he joined again but did not suffer any type of punishment for his previous infractions.

He was in Company M, Fifth Cavalry, when it was sent to Kansas for action against the Sioux and Cheyenne. On July 8, 1869, he was in advance patrol when it was attacked by Indians near the Republican River. In the course of the campaign Kile displayed exemplary conduct and good judgment, saving the lives of other troopers, and received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In May 1870, he enlisted, in Company I, Seventh Cavalry, and was sent to Fort Hays, Kansas. There he and Trooper Jerry Lonergan became embroiled in the saloon row with Hickok in which Kile was mortally wounded. Lonegran was only slightly wounded. The shooting occurred on July 17, and Kile died the following day. This killing by Hickok was not in the line of duty.

Kile was initially buried at the Fort Hays Cemetery, but later his body was moved to the National Cemetery at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. In the early 1990s the army erected an official gold-lettered Medal of Honor stone at his grave, number 3341, Section H. Due to Kile's status as a deserter, however, the marking of this hero's grave received little attention from the local press. For the whole story, read "Requiem for John Kile," by Robert Rybolt, in the Spring 1994 *Old West.*

Western History Collection, University of Oklahoma

Wild Bill Hickok, shot down John Kile in a saloon near Fort Hays, Kansas, on July 16, 1870.

Little Known Olinger Brother

Bob Olinger met his destiny on the wrong side of a double-barrelled shotgun, blown away by Billy the Kid in front of the Lincoln County Courthouse. Vaugn M. Greene of San Bruno, California, researches the lives of Olinger and his brother, Wallace. He would like to know more about the ultimate fate of Wallace Olinger.

We know very little about Wallace Olinger. He was born in Delphi, Indiana, on May 3, 1849. His mother, Rebecca Stafford, may have been part-Indian. As a young man, Wallace joined his brother, Robert, hunting Buffalo in Texas. Later Wallace suffered a smallpox infection but was nursed back to health by a friend, William Harrison Johnson. Johnson and Olinger then left Texas for New Mexico Territory where they became witnesses to and participants in the Lincoln County War.

Johnson married Camelia Beckwith in 1875, over the strong objections of her father (we don't know exactly why). Eventually the differences between Johnson and his father-in-law resulted in a violent exchange in which Henry M. "Hugh" Beckwith killed Johnson. Olinger retaliated by severely wounding Beckwith.

Sometime during 1883 Wallace married Johnson's widow and the couple moved to Topeka, Kansas. They had one son, named Robert, in memory of Wallace's brother, killed by the Kid, but the marriage did not last.

About 1913 Olinger drifted out to California. He died at Valley View Sanitarium in Van Nuys in February 25, 1940, and his body was sent to the county crematory. Apparently Wallace and his wife never legally divorced; she died shortly before him, of heart failure, on August 18, 1939, in Mesilla Park, New Mexico. She was buried in the Masonic Cemetery at Las Cruces.

Tombstone Stage Robbers

Another lawman who has received more attention than he deserves is Wyatt Earp. Robert Howard of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, would like to know what happened to the robbers of the

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Tombstone-Benson stage. The robbery of the stage on the night of March 15, 1881, has become part of the "Wyatt Earp Myth and the Tombstone Experience." Allegedly five rustlers took part in the robbery—William S. Leonard, James Crane, Harry "Kid" Head, Luther King, and Johnny Barnes. Possibly a sixth man was involved, the redoubtable John Henry "Doc" Holliday of the Earp clan. The attack on the stage may have been a bungled robbery, or it may have been a more sinister attempt to kill John Clum, editor of the *Tombstone Epitaph.*

The stage robbers first shot and killed Eli "Budd" Philpot. The shots panicked the horses, which bolted and left the robbers standing in the road with nothing to show for their efforts. It was later discovered that a passenger, Peter Roerig, had also been shot. He died later of his wounds.

A posse consisting of the Earps, Bat Masterson, Buckskin Frank Leslie, Deputy Sheriff Billy Breakenridge, and others arrested rustler Luther King as a suspect in the stage robbery on March 19. The posse delivered King to Sheriff John Behan's office the night of the twenty-sixth, but the outlaw managed to slip out a back door where a horse awaited him. The sheriff may have been aware of the plot.

Not much later a rumor circulated that King had been killed by rustlers in the Huachuca Mountains because he had "given them away" and they wanted him silenced. Although the rumor was never substantiated, we know nothing about Luther King after his escape.

As for the other suspects, ranchers Ike and Bill Haslett (or Hazlett) ambushed Bill Leonard and Harry Head on June 11. The attack near Owl City, New Mexico, was a preemptive strike as rumors indicated Leonard, Head, and others were going to kill the Hasletts to get them off their ranch.

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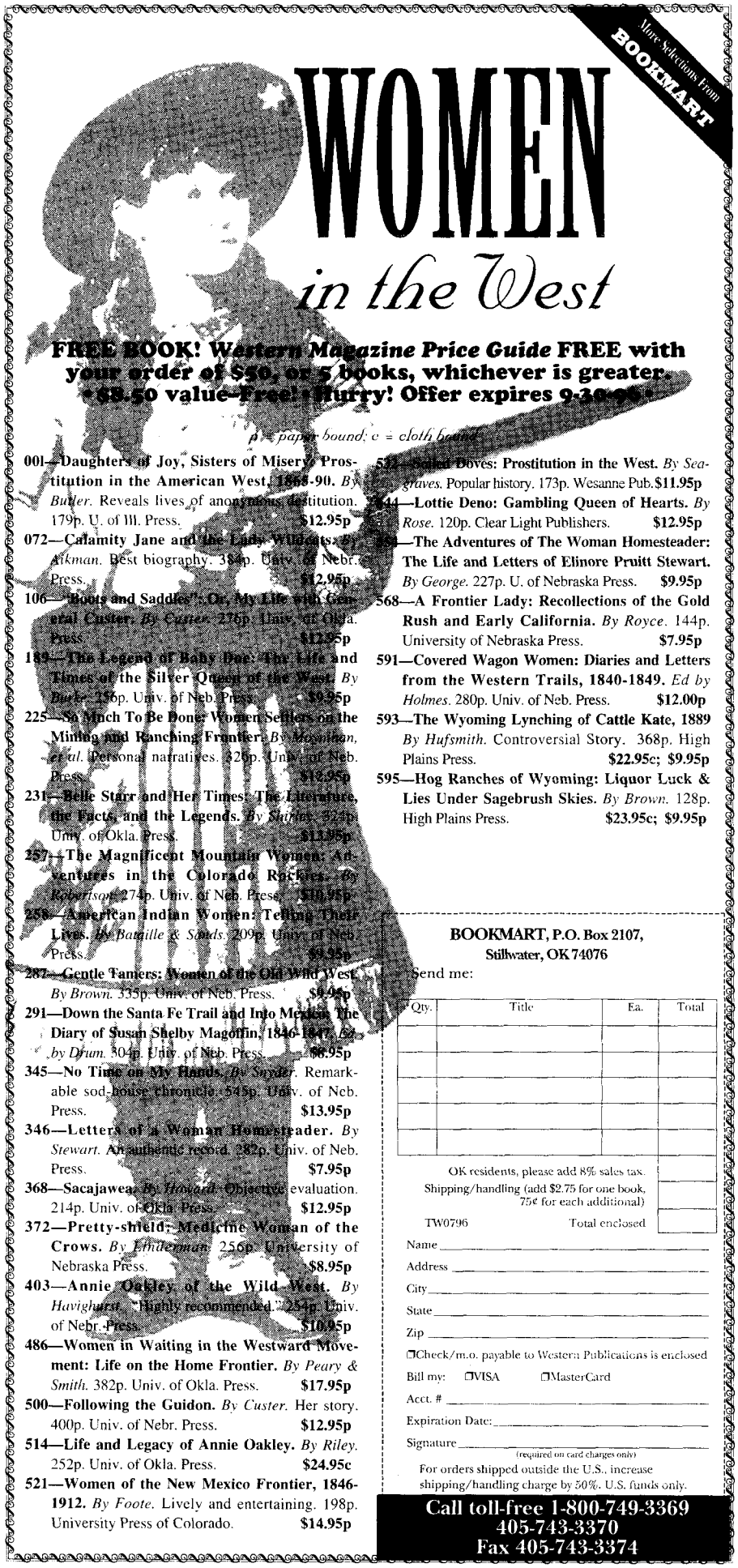

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Jim Crane, another of the suspected stagecoach robbers, then took it upon himself to avenge the deaths of his friends. On the evening of June 12 he and some fifteen to twenty others rode up to the McFadden Saloon near Eureka, New Mexico, and blasted both the Haslett brothers to death.

Crane did not enjoy his calling as an avenger for long. After rustling some cattle in Mexico, Crane and other cowboys, including Newman "Old Man" Clanton and a half-dozen others, were driving the herd to Tombstone to sell. On the night of August 12 a large group of Mexicans ambushed the rustlers in Guadalupe Canyon. The force may have been federal troops pursuing the cattle thieves or simply an enraged group of citizens out to recover their own stolen property.

Wyatt Earp claimed that in the aftermath of the OK Corral shooting, he and a small posse killed the remaining stagecoach robber, Johnny Barnes, and Curly Bill Brocius on March 26, near what is known as Iron or Mescal Springs in the Whetstone Mountains. Fred Dodge, an agent for Wells, Fargo, claimed that Barnes survived the Iron Springs fight, but was wounded in another skirmish and later died. Historians have displayed little interest in Johnny Barnes, but there is considerable doubt whether Earp actually killed Curly Bill. The issue remains yet another controversy in the Earp-Tombstone saga.

Sheriff Behan arrested Doc Holliday, accused of being one of the stage robbers, but the district attorney determined there was insufficient evidence to charge Holliday and he was released. He died of tuberculosis on November 8, 1887.

A Brush With Death

Daniel A. Massant, a reader who calls Belgium home, has read that Quanah Parker was almost killed by a white man's invention, but not a rifle or pistol.

It was the white man's gaslight, totally foreign to the famous chief, which almost caused his death. After Parker became a friend of the white man and a respected leader of his people he often traveled to big cities in the company of his former enemies (visiting Washington, DC, four times). In December 1885, he visited Fort Worth, Texas, with one of his relatives, Yellow Bear. Cattleman Daniel W. Waggoner took Parker out on the town and then returned him to his room at the Pickwick. Yellow Bear had remained in the room and was asleep when Parker returned. Unknowingly Parker failed to completely turn off the room's gas light. According to a local newspaper report the pair awakened during the night, then collapsed from the effects of the gas. Yellow Bear succumbed but Parker fell near a draft and survived.

If you have a question, send it to Chuck Parsons, Western Publications, P.O. Box 2107, Stillwater, OK 74076. Please keep questions brief. Sign your full name and address, including zip code. Names will be published if question is used. Space limitations may not permit us to use all questions. Due to the volume of mail, we cannot forward correspondence to people whose questions appear in "Answer Man."

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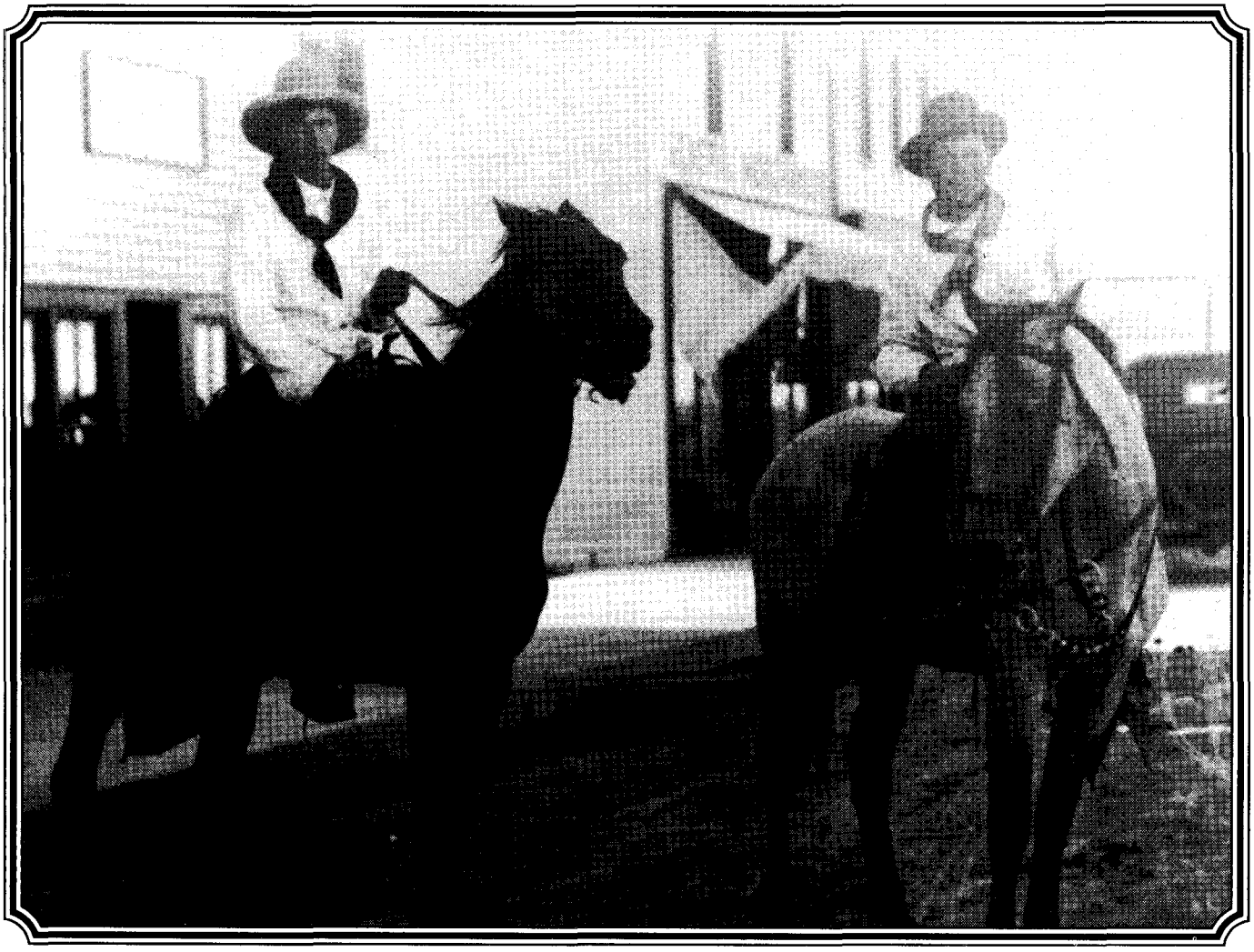
Shooting from Horseback

By Jim Kile

When I was about twenty-five years old, my dad told me a story of the first and, I suspect, the last time he ever shot a gun from horseback. I had been thinking of using a couple of my horses to go hunting, and I wanted to get them used to the sound of gunfire. I said something to Dad about maybe getting them so I could shoot from their backs. Dad didn't try to talk me out of my little project. Instead, he told me this story, a close as I can remember.

"One time when I was working in southeastern Montana, I was out on the prairie, checking on a little bunch of cattle we had on summer grass. There wasn't very many in the bunch, around a hundred head I suppose, but they had a lot of area to graze on and they were pretty well scattered. So it was a job that took quite a bit of time."

It seems that Dad had been out on the prairie most of the day, and as he put it, "Being a young man I



Courtesy of the Author

Author Jim Kile's father, Elmer Kile, is the man on the right. He was twenty years old when the picture was taken on August 24, 1917, in Beech, North Dakota. His companion is unidentified.

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was getting kind of bored with settin' on the back of a horse and lookin' at the same old flat country. Well sir, all of a sudden I seen a coyote come a-trottin' up out of a shallow draw. I could scarce believe it. That coyote was angling off to the east, away from me and he had no idea I was anywhere in the country. I was pretty sure he wasn't gonna see me unless I moved or made a racket. Now being a sporting man back in those days, I saw an opportunity to have a little excitement. I pulled my pistol out of its holster, and when the coyote got far enough away from the draw so's there was no chance for him to get back, I spurred my horse. With a whoop and a holler, I set in after him. I chased him for a couple hundred yards or so before I could get in pistol range. I was chasing that coyote with my horse a-runnin' at a full-out gallop, and we was jumping sagebrush and dodgin' dog holes and whatever else might have got in the way. Pretty soon I got within shooting range of the coyote, so I aimed my gun over the head of my horse and squeezed off a shot."

"I was chasing that coyote with my horse at a full-out gallop. Pretty soon I got within shooting range of the coyote, so I aimed my gun over the head of my horse and squeezed off a shot."

Of course, when a horse runs, his head will bob up and down and—you guessed it—Dad shot his horse in the back of the head, squarely between the ears.

"Now, when the horse went down," Dad said, "I must have rolled and bounced along that flat old prairie ground for about fifty or seventy-five yards." That may or may not have been an exaggeration.

"Well, sir," Dad said, "after I got my wind back and checked to see if there was any damage to myself other than a pretty bad wounded pride, I dusted myself off and walked back to check on my horse. At first I thought he had probably stepped in a dog hole, and I was afraid he'd broke his leg and I'd have to shoot 'im. It didn't take me long to figure out that there was no need for any more shooting.

"Of course, I had to cut a brand new cinch to get my saddle loose from the dead horse. I was about five or six miles from the ranch house and I had to carry a full load of equipment back. It was well after dark when I got to the bunk house."

In those days, a full load of equipment could include a saddle that weighed around forty-five pounds, a rifle and scabbard, a rope, and possibly a bed roll and saddle bags. All of those trappings could weigh seventy-five pounds or more. Dad never said how much his gear weighed, but I had the impression that by the time he got back to headquarters it felt like he was carrying the dead horse along with all his gear.

I asked Dad what kind of reception he received when he finally arrived at the bunkhouse. Evidently by then he was either tired of talking about it or he figured I had completely missed the point. Anyway he chose to ignore my question. I knew when Dad refused to answer, there was no point in trying to get him to discuss the subject any further. Other times when he related stories to me, if he felt he had said enough, no amount of prodding would get him to continue.

And just in case you missed the point of my story, I didn't miss the point of his. I never did get my horses trained so I could shoot from their backs.

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Back to Earth....5
Barbed Wire Press....Cover 4
Book Mart....7, 12, 13, 27-30, 59
Custeriana Books....7
Collector's Armoury....56
Commons Crafts....62
Dead Legends....8
Deep River Cowboy Association....5
Dixie Gun Works....55
Ghost Town Back Issues....Cover 2
Steve Eagles....5
Hunter's Frontier Times....60
L&JA Enterprises....4
Lincoln County Heritage Trust....8
Load & Go Produce....62
Moved....62
Outlaw-Lawman Books....Cover3
R & A Hobbies....13
Retailers' Profit Program....64
Shkurkin, Vlad....62
Simmons Scientific....13
Slocum Books....62
Tecumseh's Old West....5
Today's Old West Traveler....9
Trailing Billy the Kid....57
True West / Old West Subscription....5, 11
Women in the West Books....59
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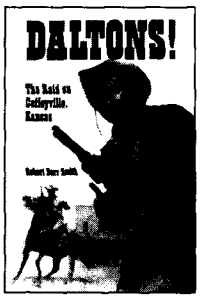

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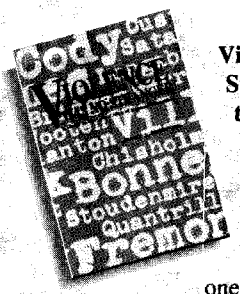

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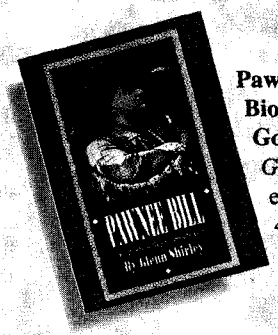

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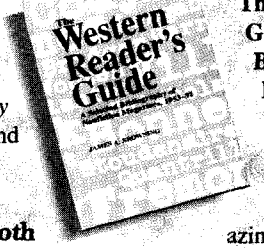

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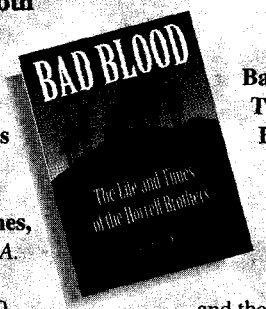

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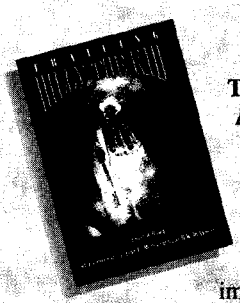

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